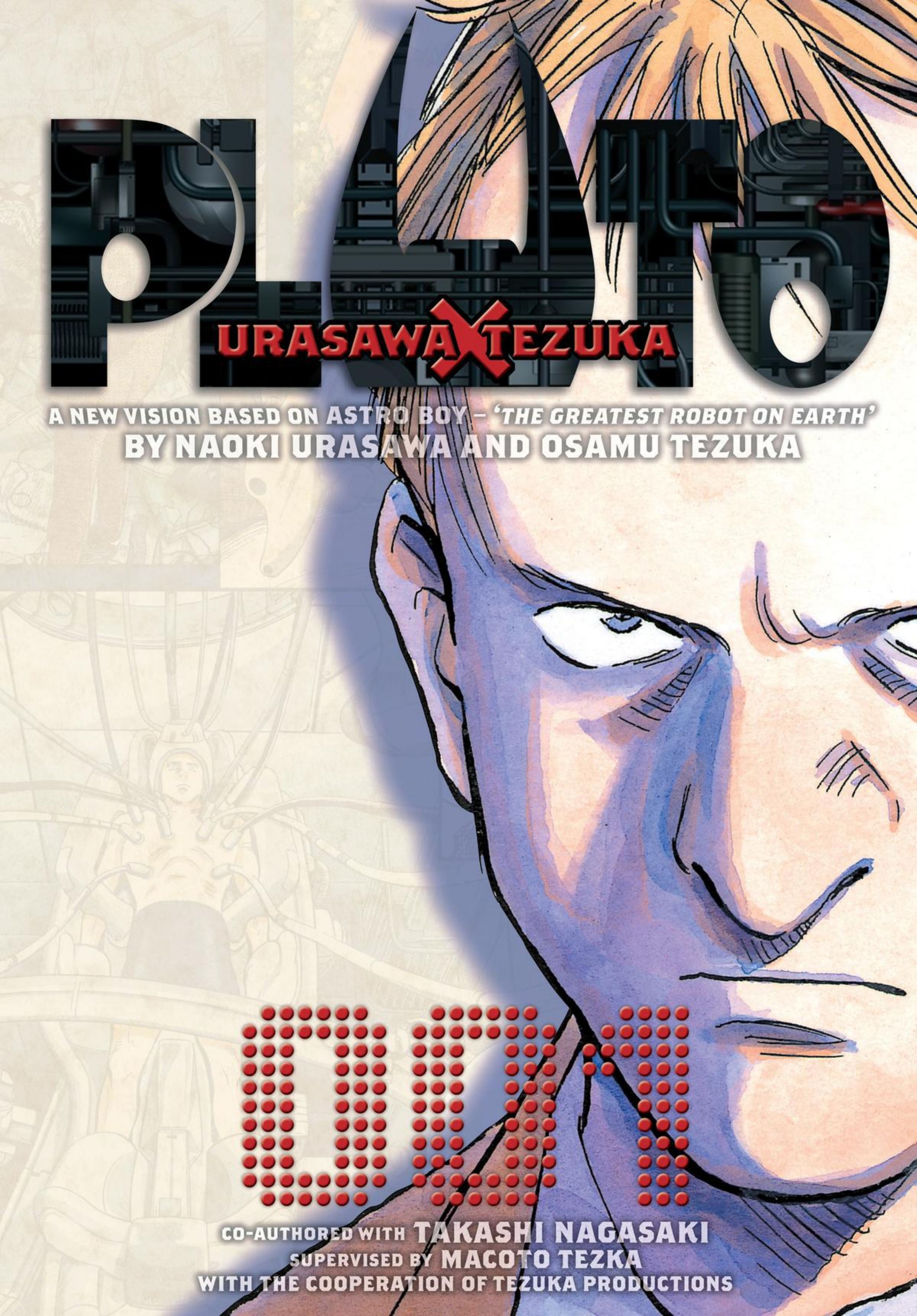
PLUTO
URASAWA X TEZUKA
A NEW VISION BASED ON ASTRO BOY – 'THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH'
BY NAOKI URASAWA AND OSAMU TEZUKA
OTAKU
CO-AUTHORED WITH TAKASHI NAGASAKI
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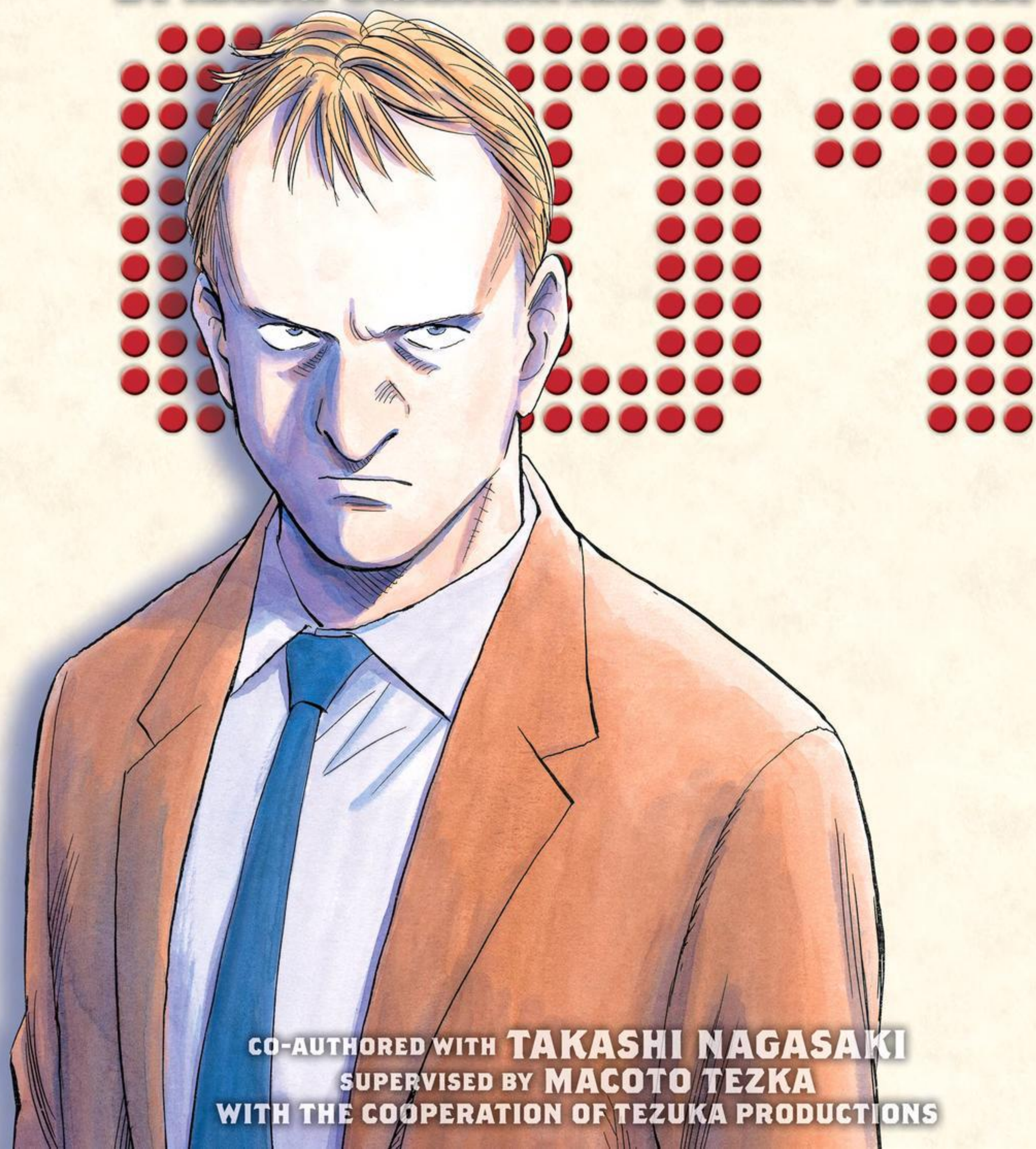

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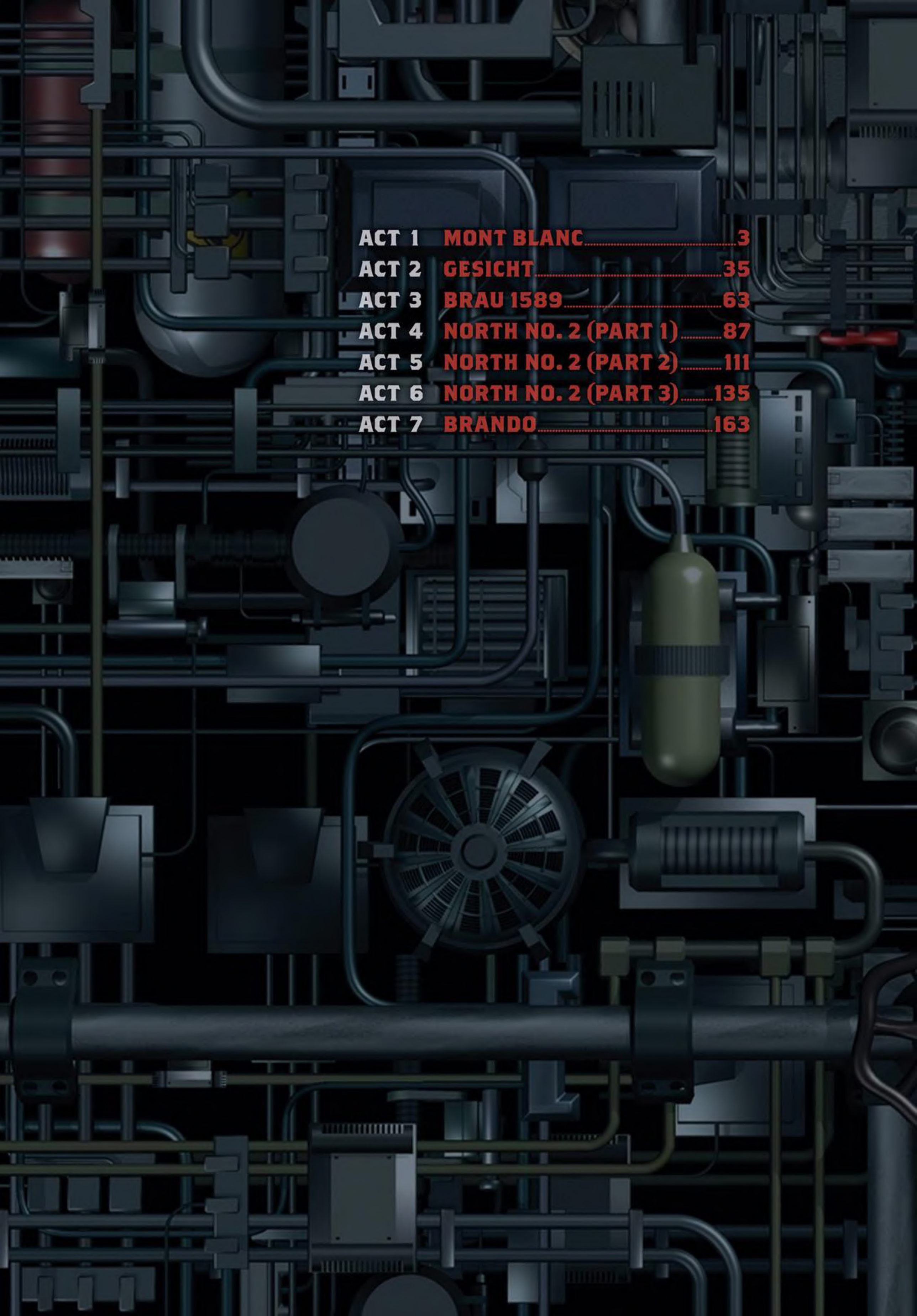

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ACT 3 BRAU 1589 63
ACT 4 NORTH NO. 2 (PART 1) 87
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ACT 6 NORTH NO. 2 (PART 3) 135
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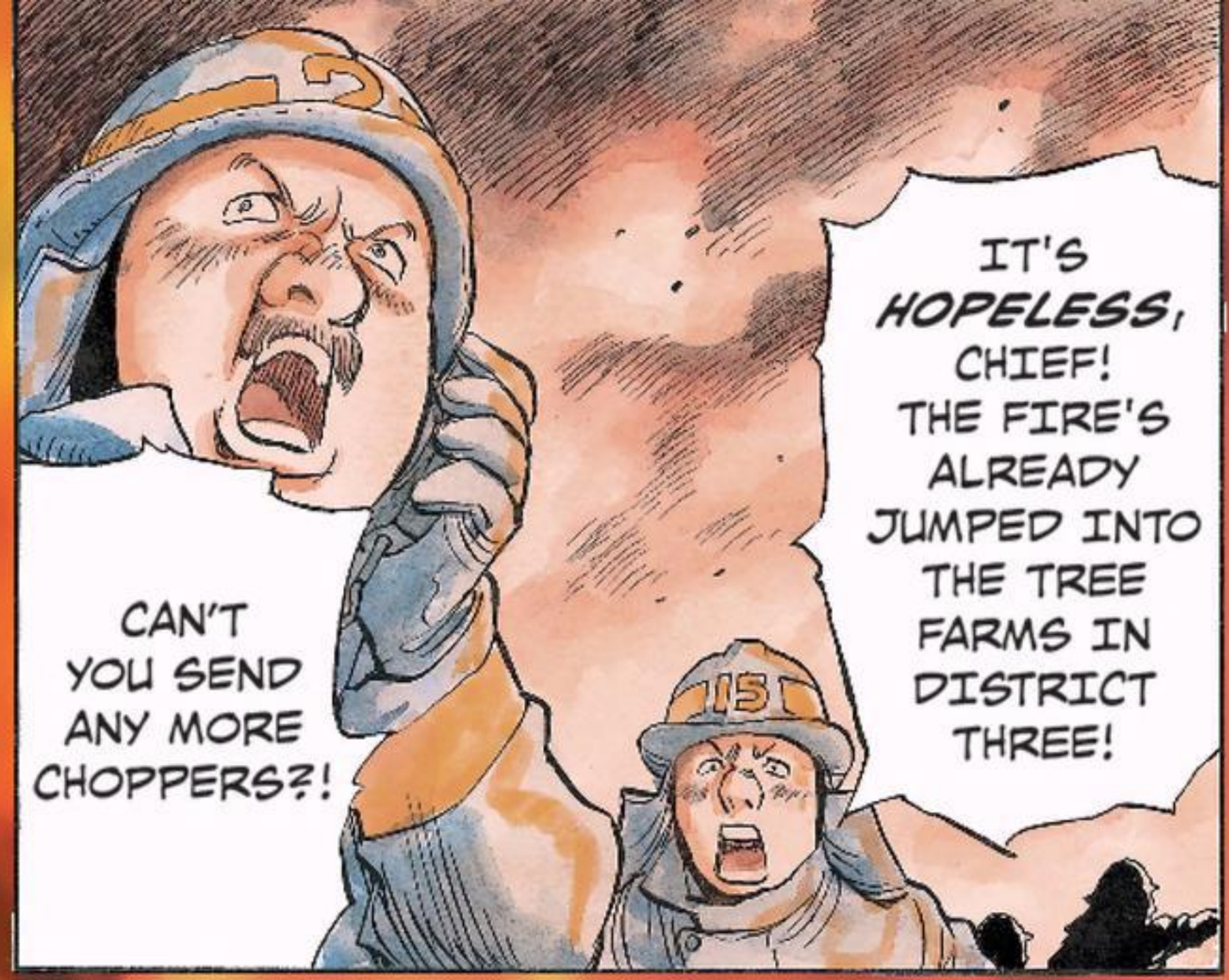
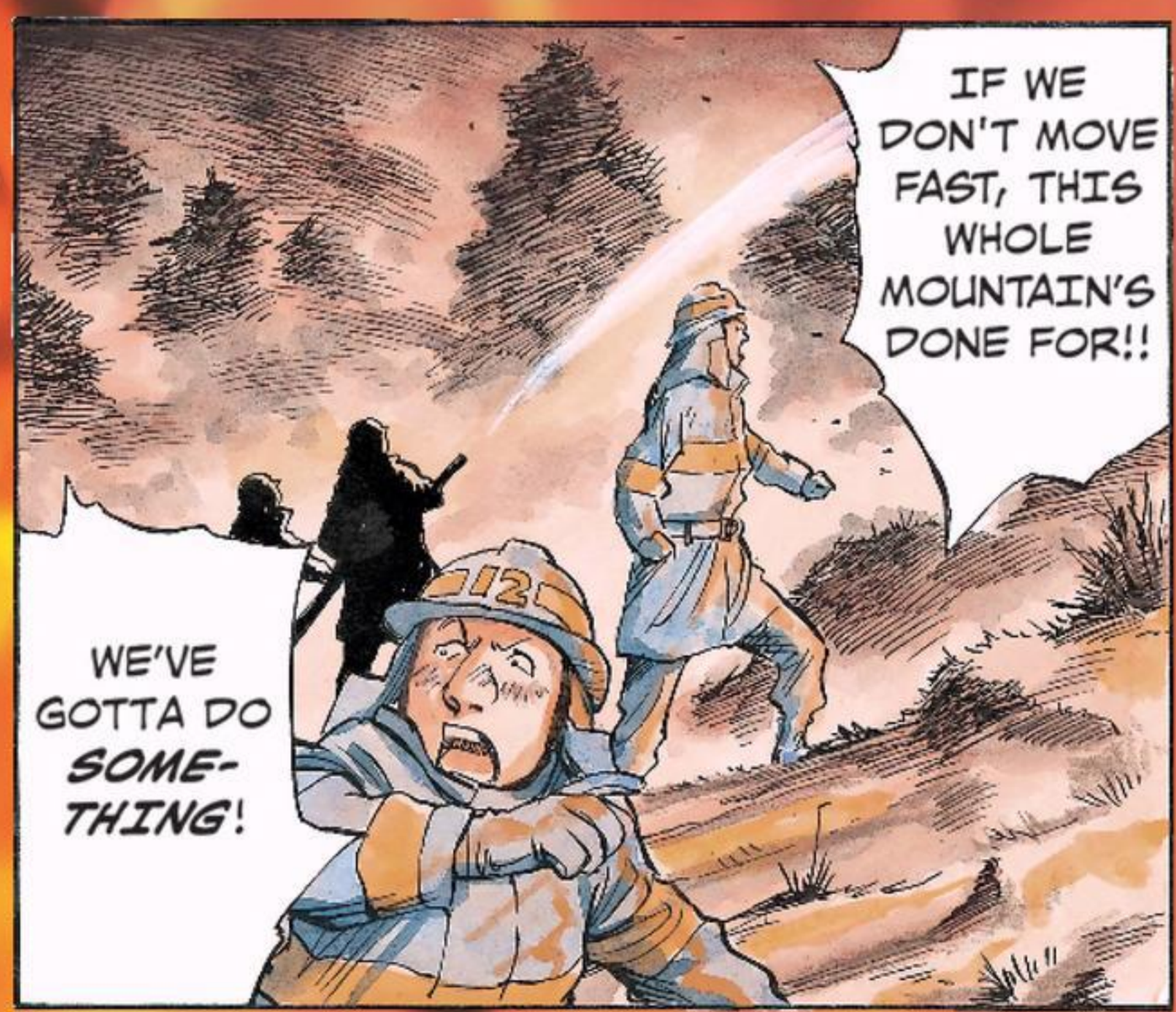
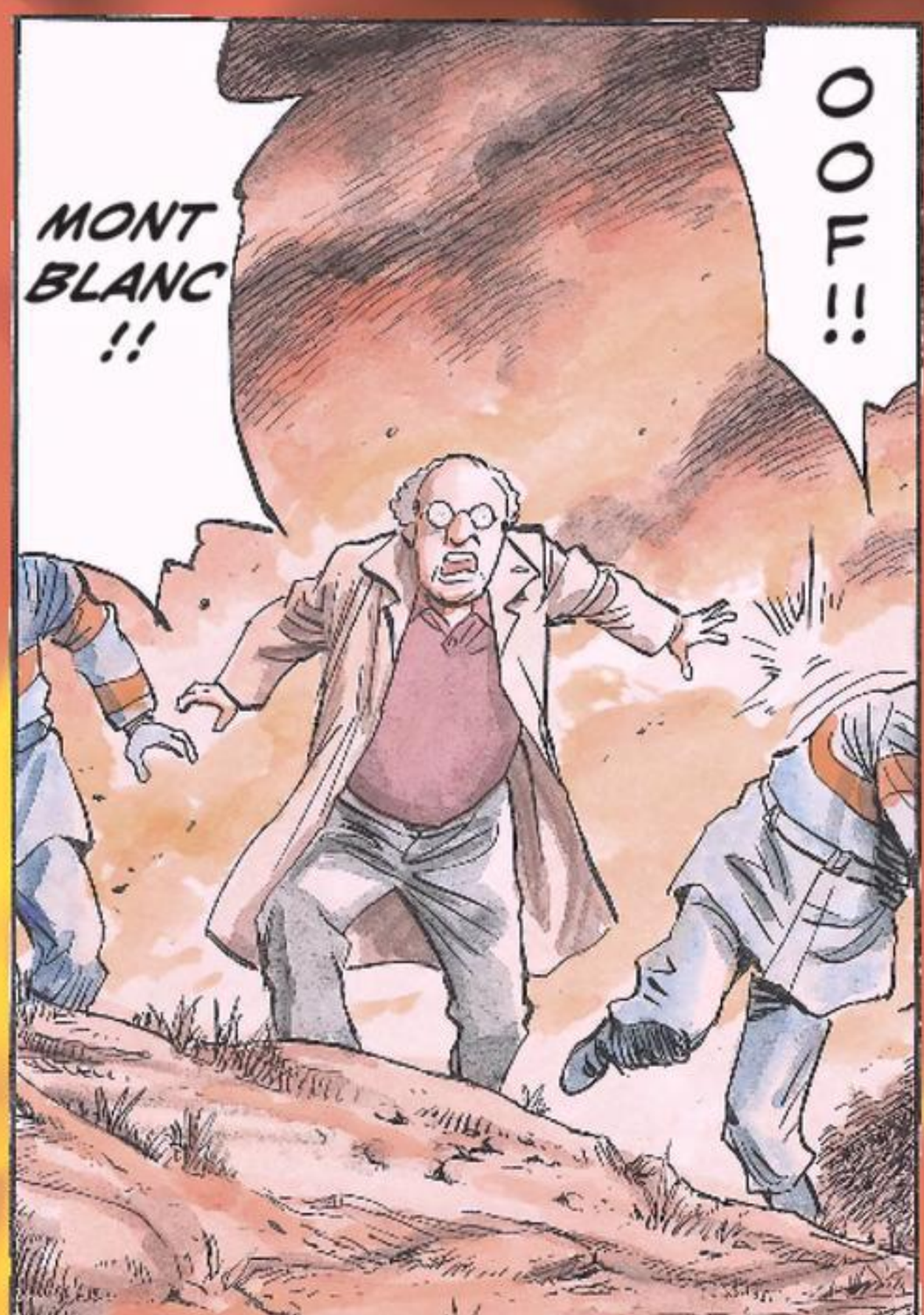
Act 1 MONT BLANC





G-GOOD GOD...!


MONT BLANC !!
OOF !!

Y-YOU THINK SOME-THING CRASH-LANDED HERE...?
THESE TREES'VE BEEN SNAPPED OFF AT THE ROOTS!

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE... WE'D HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT!

I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH MONT BLANC! HIS SIGNAL WENT DEAD!

PROFESSOR REINHARDT ...?

PANT

PANT

STOP, PROFES-SOR! *STOP*! IT'S A BLAZING INFERNO!

I'VE GOT TO REACH MONT BLANC!!

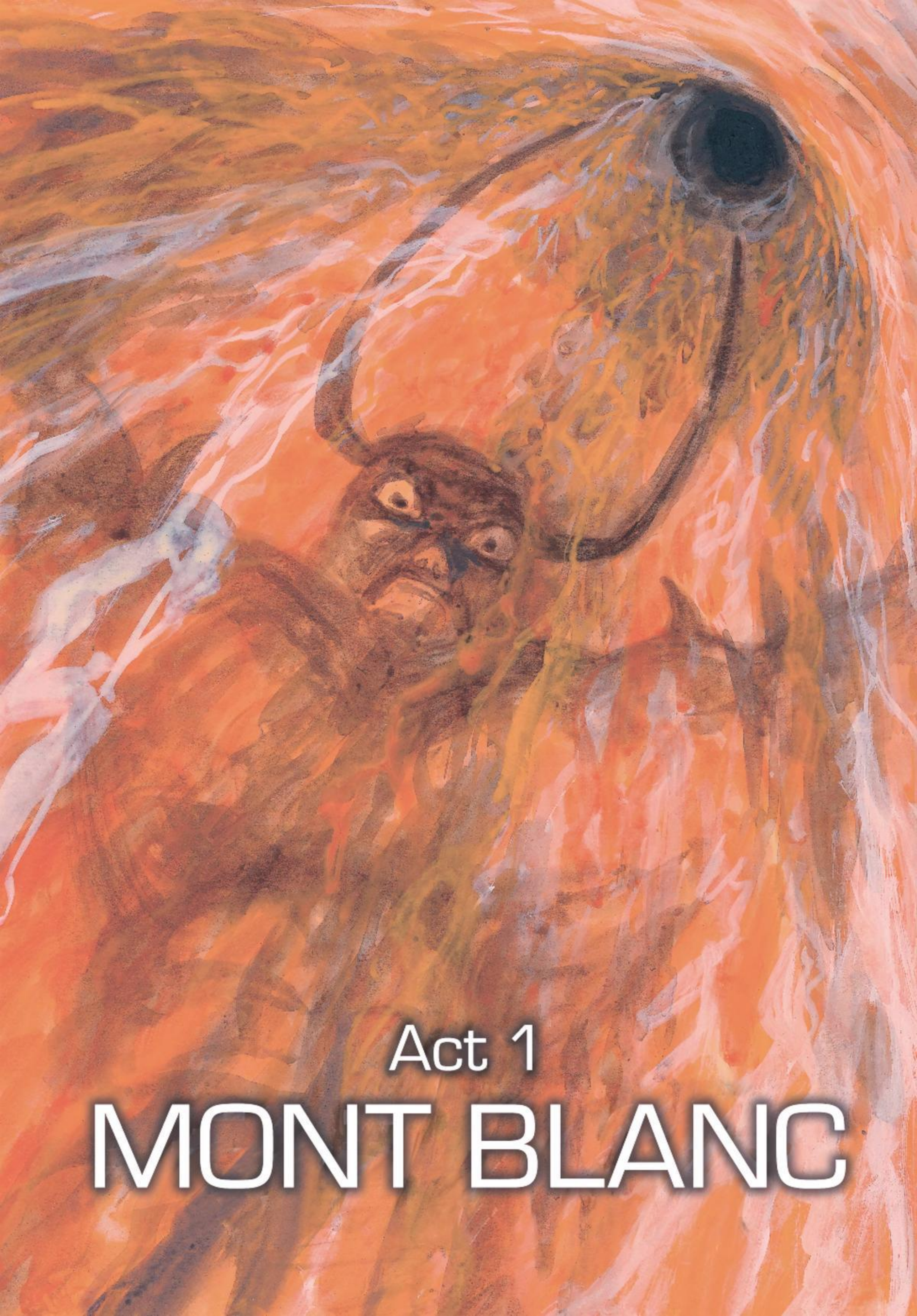
WHAT?

PROFES-SOR... *STOP!*

MONT BLANC !!

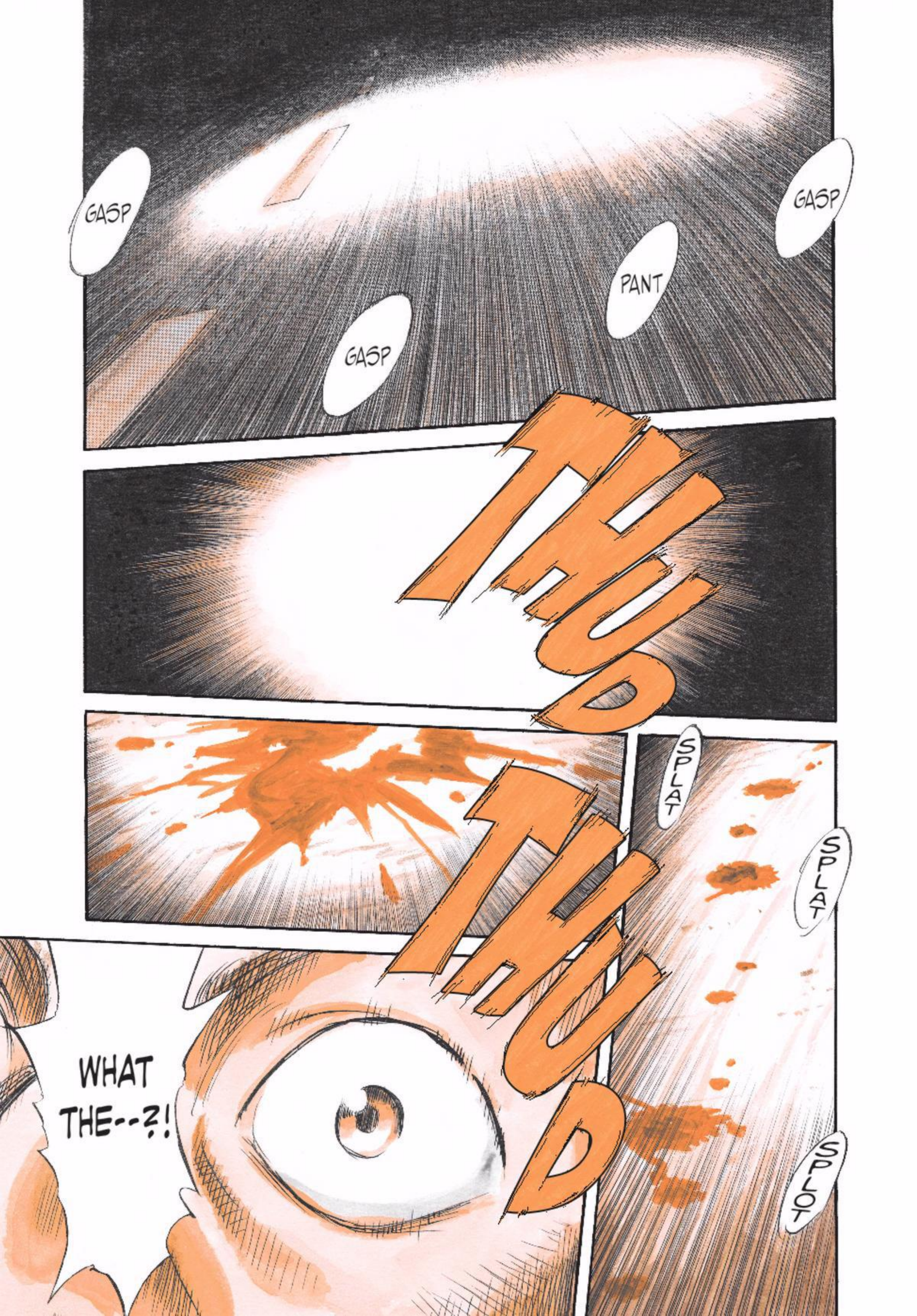
MONT BLANC !!

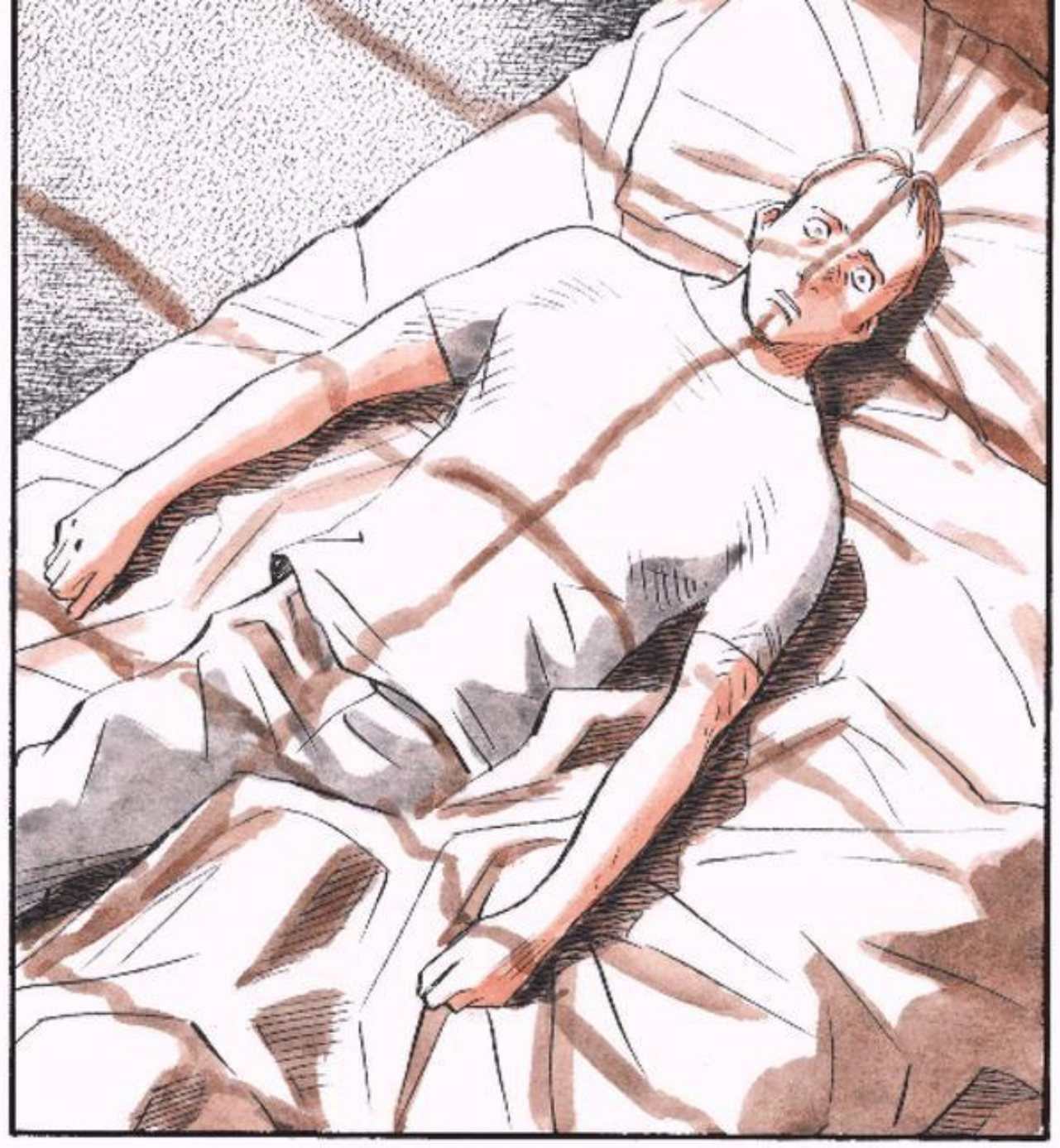
RAAA

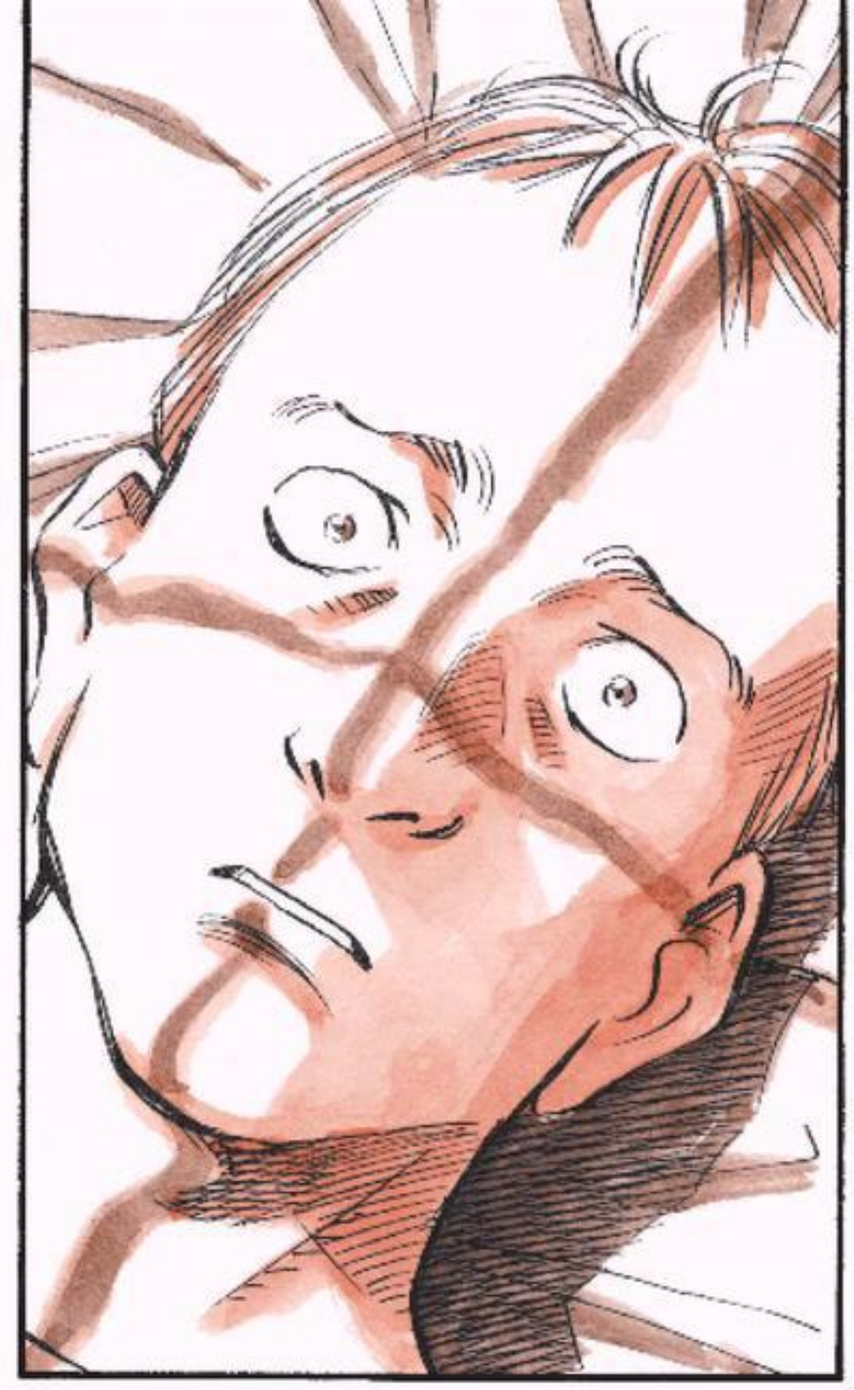


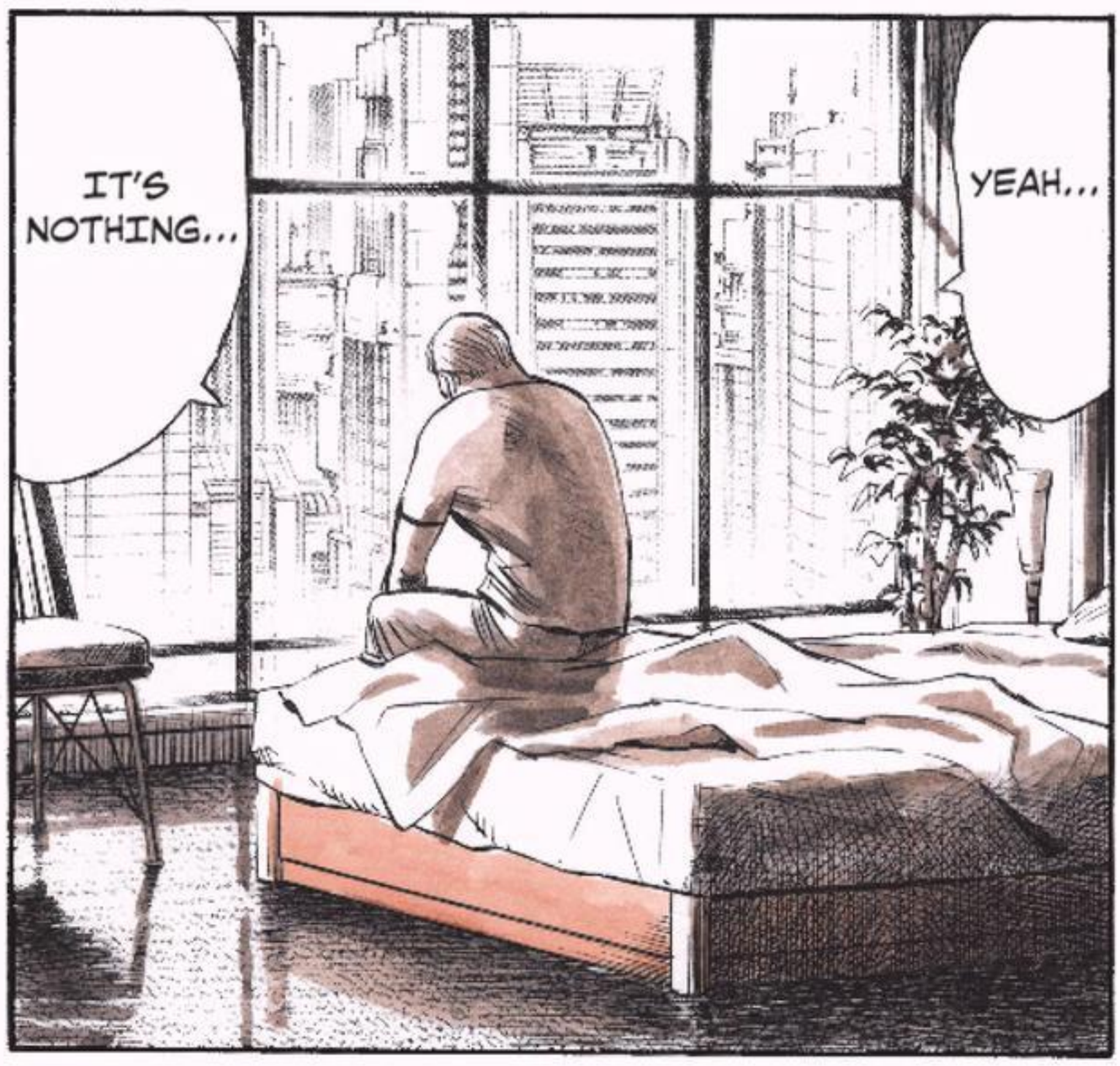
Act 1

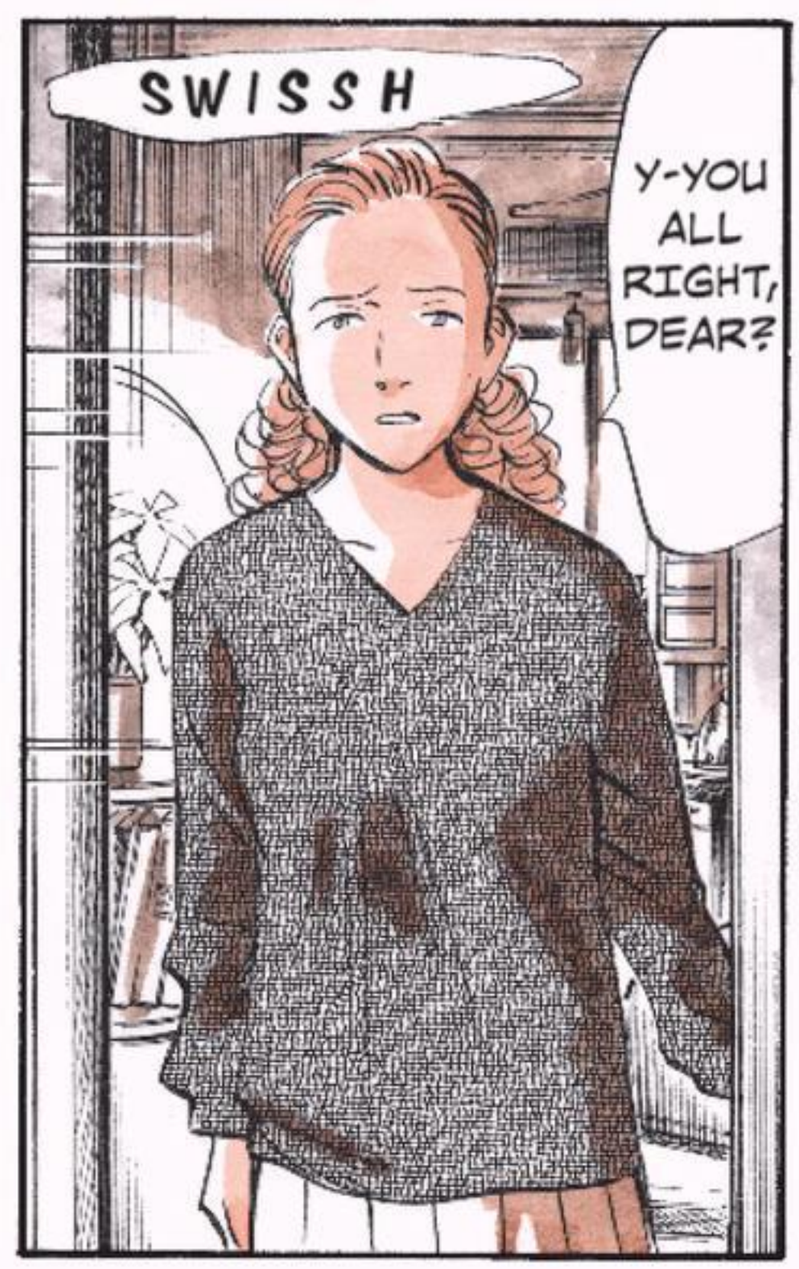
MONT BLANC

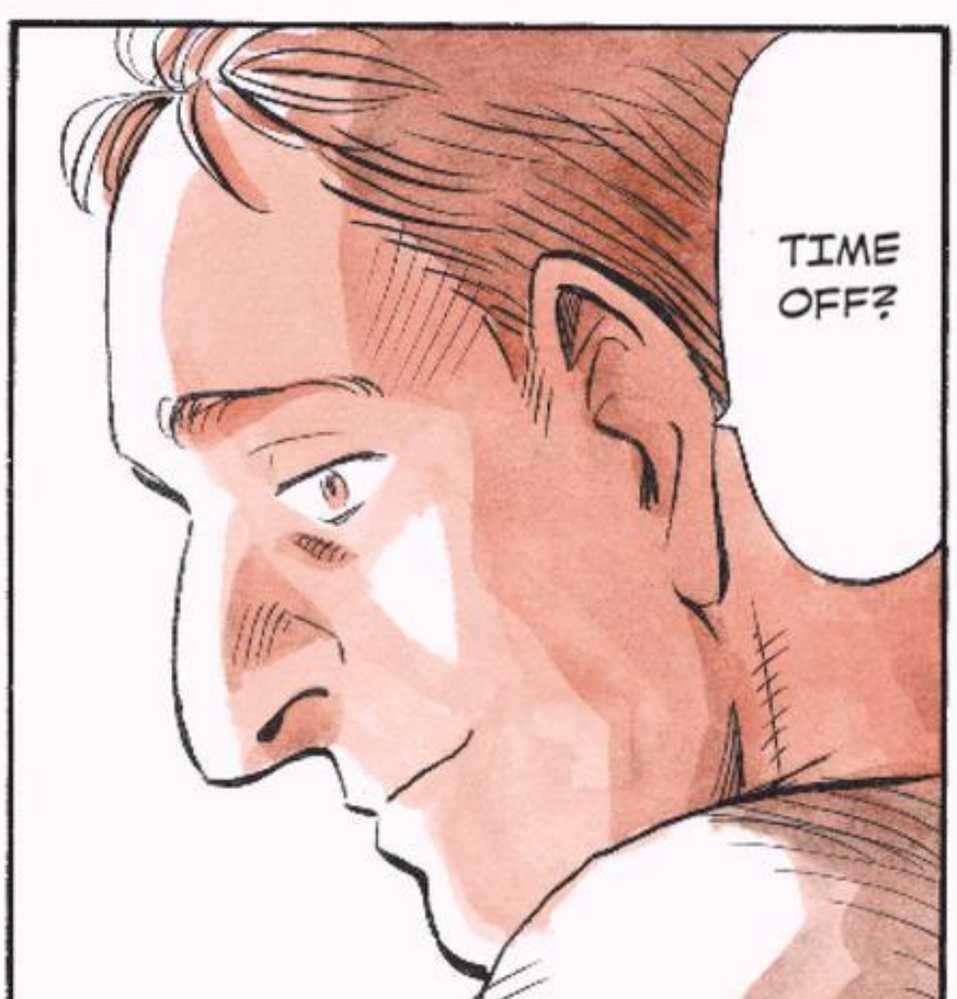

GASP
GASP
PANT
GASP
THUD
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLOT
WHAT THE--?!

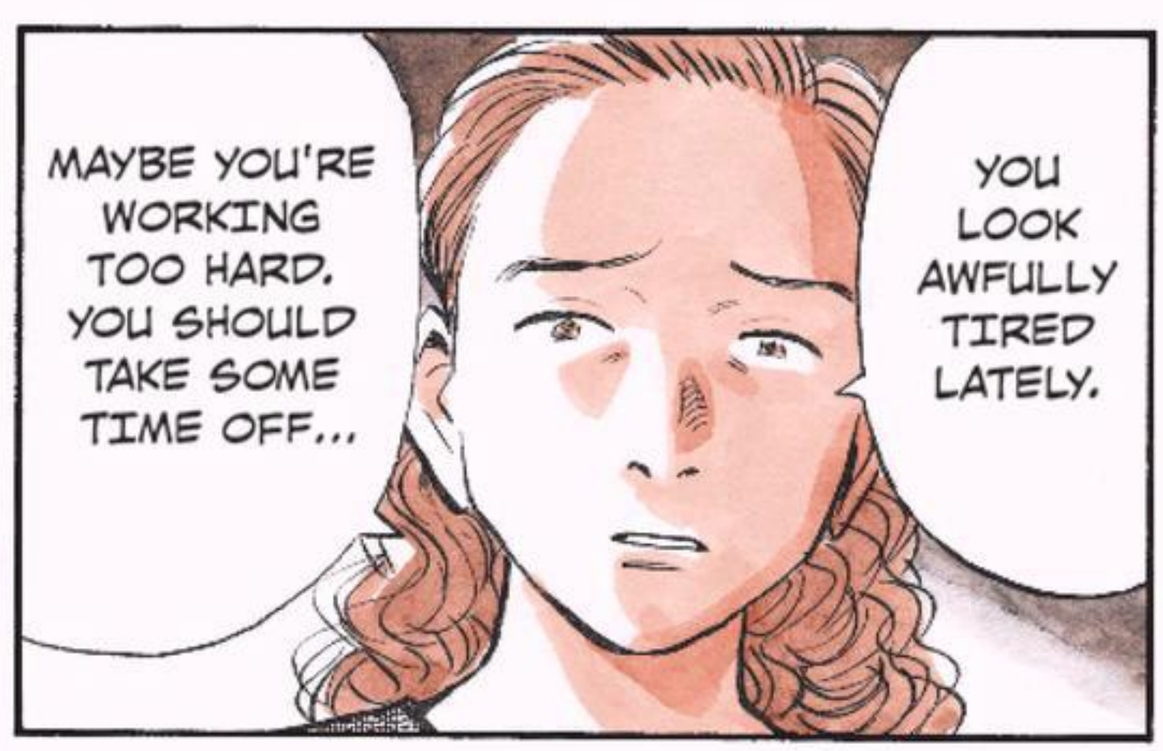




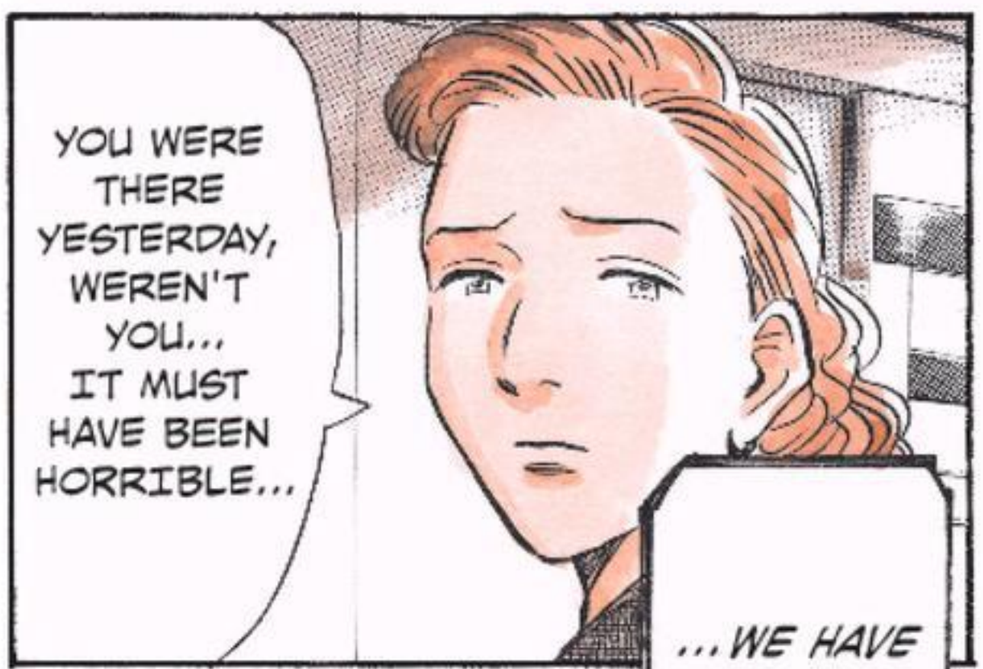

IT'S NOTHING...
YEAH...

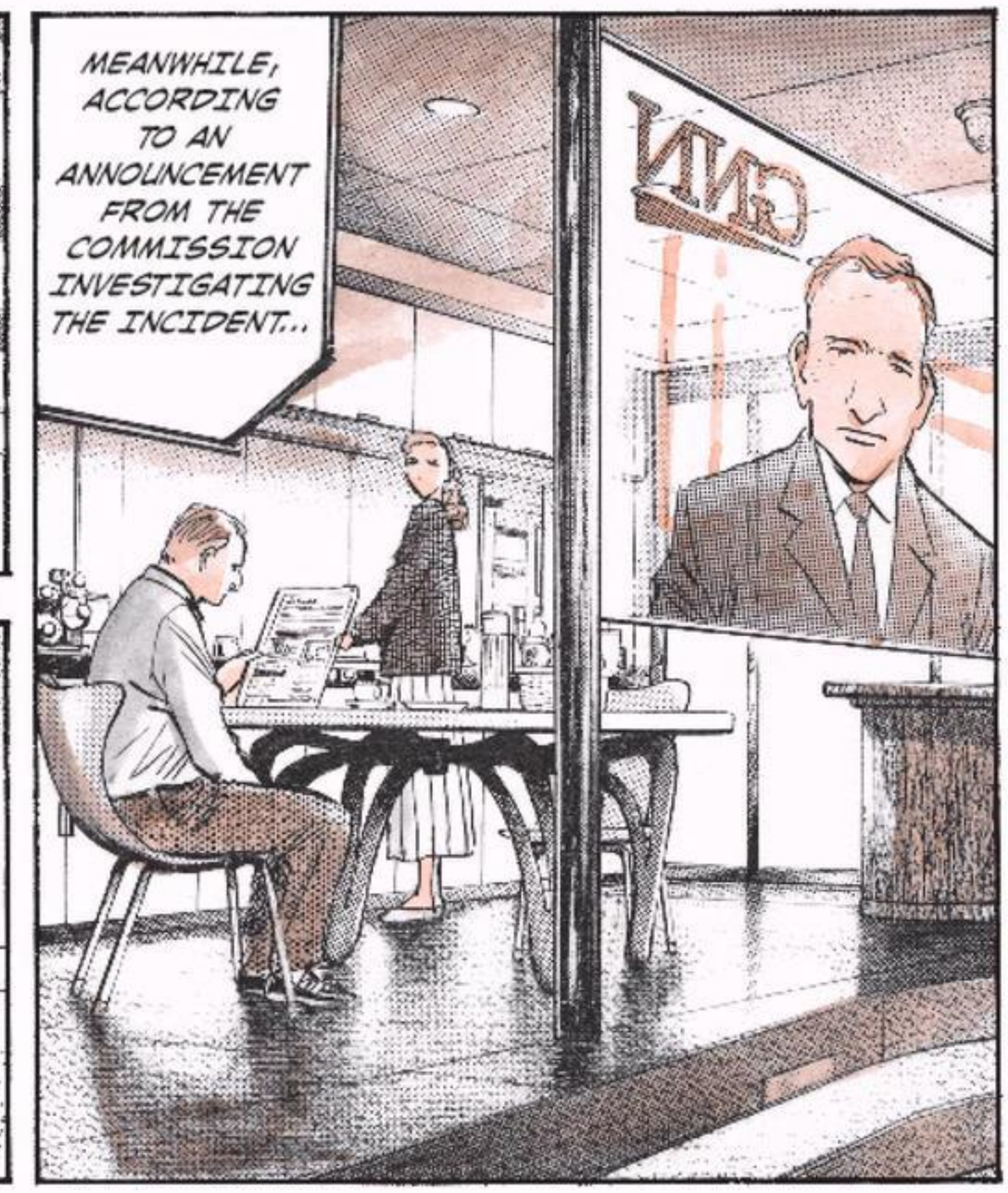

SWISSH
Y-YOU ALL RIGHT, DEAR?

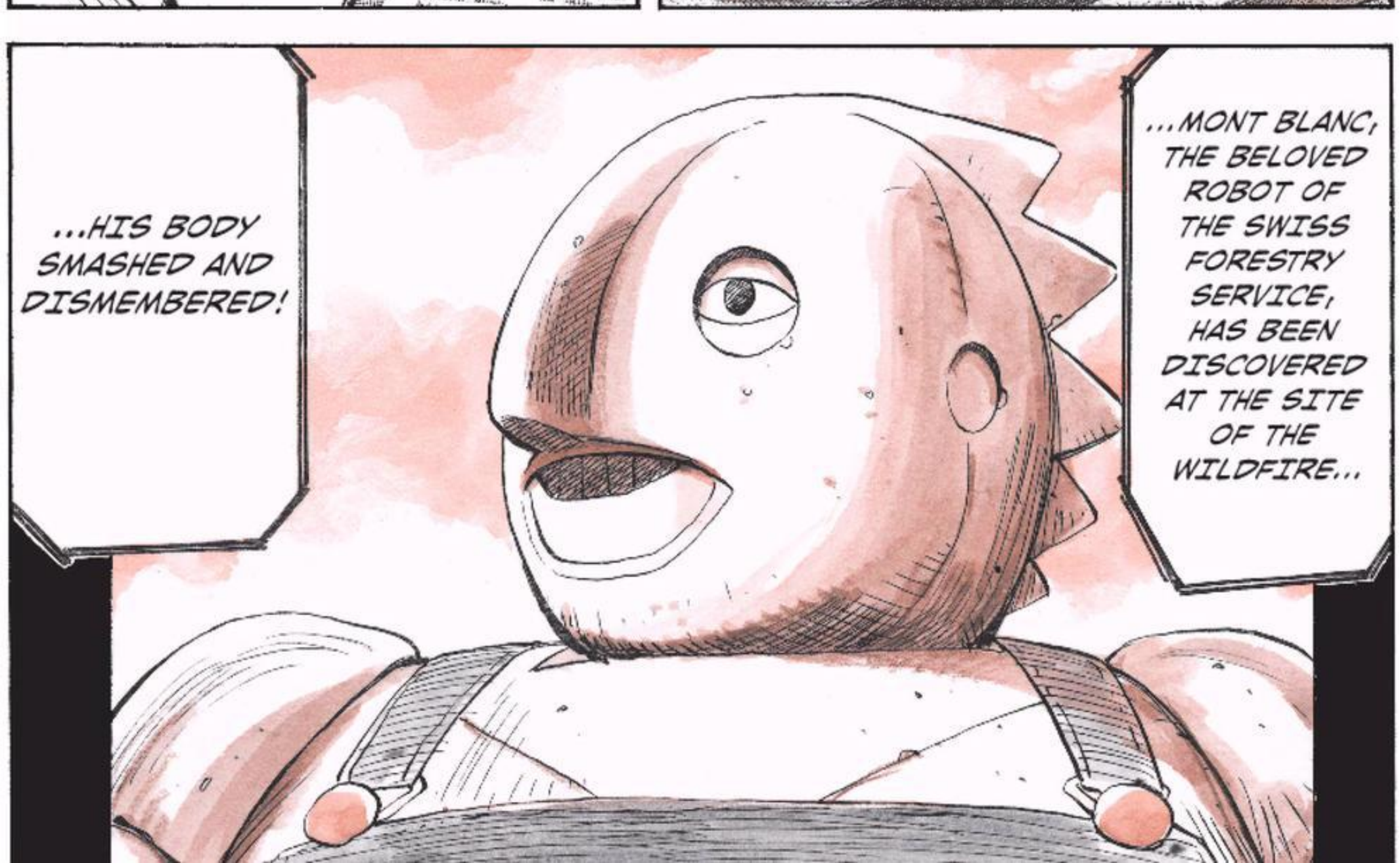

TIME OFF?


MAYBE YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD. YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF...
YOU LOOK AWFULLY TIRED LATELY.

AS YOU CAN SEE, AFTER TWO DAYS THE MOUNTAIN'S STILL COVERED IN CLOUDS OF WHITE SMOKE, WITH NUMEROUS HOT SPOTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE AREA!







...HE BEFRIENDED THOUSANDS OF CLIMBERS AND CHILDREN SIGHTSEEING IN SWITZERLAND...

MONT BLANC WAS A WORLD-RENOWNED MOUNTAIN GUIDE...

AND HE WAS ENTHUSI-ASTICALLY DEVELOPING A TREE HARVESTING PROGRAM THAT COULD COEXIST WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GOALS...

HE WAS IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING THE FORESTS IN THE LUCERNE REGION, WHERE THE FIRE BROKE OUT.

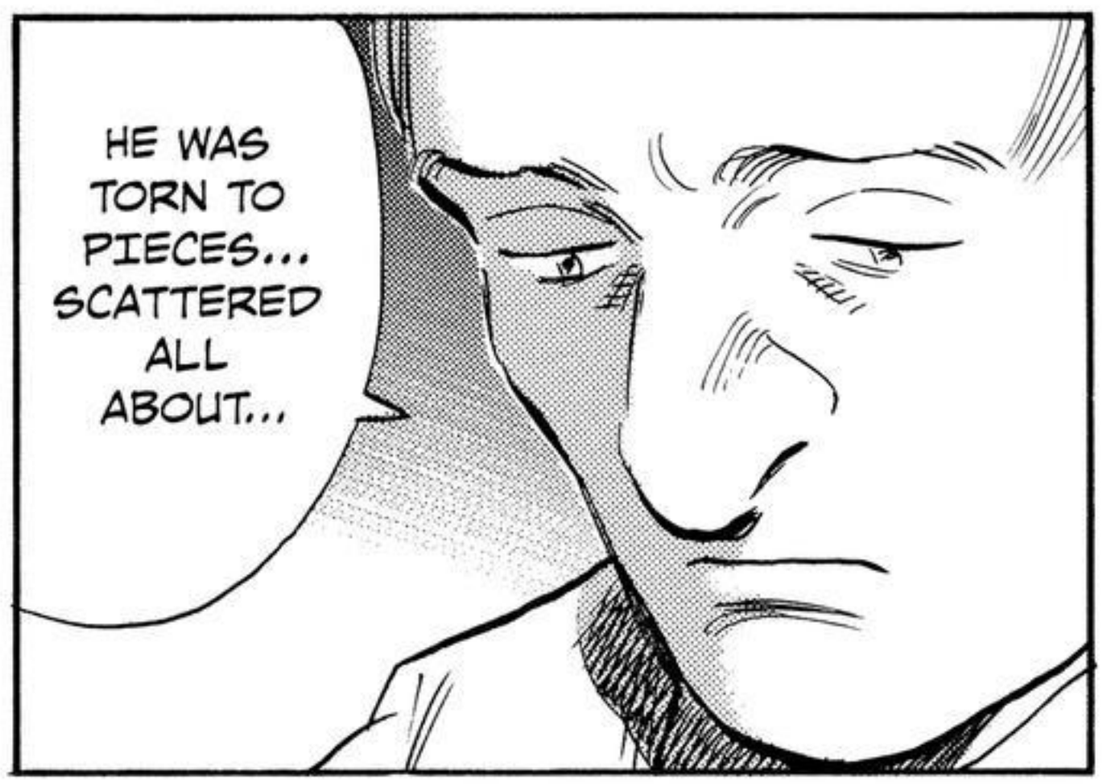
YOU SAW IT?

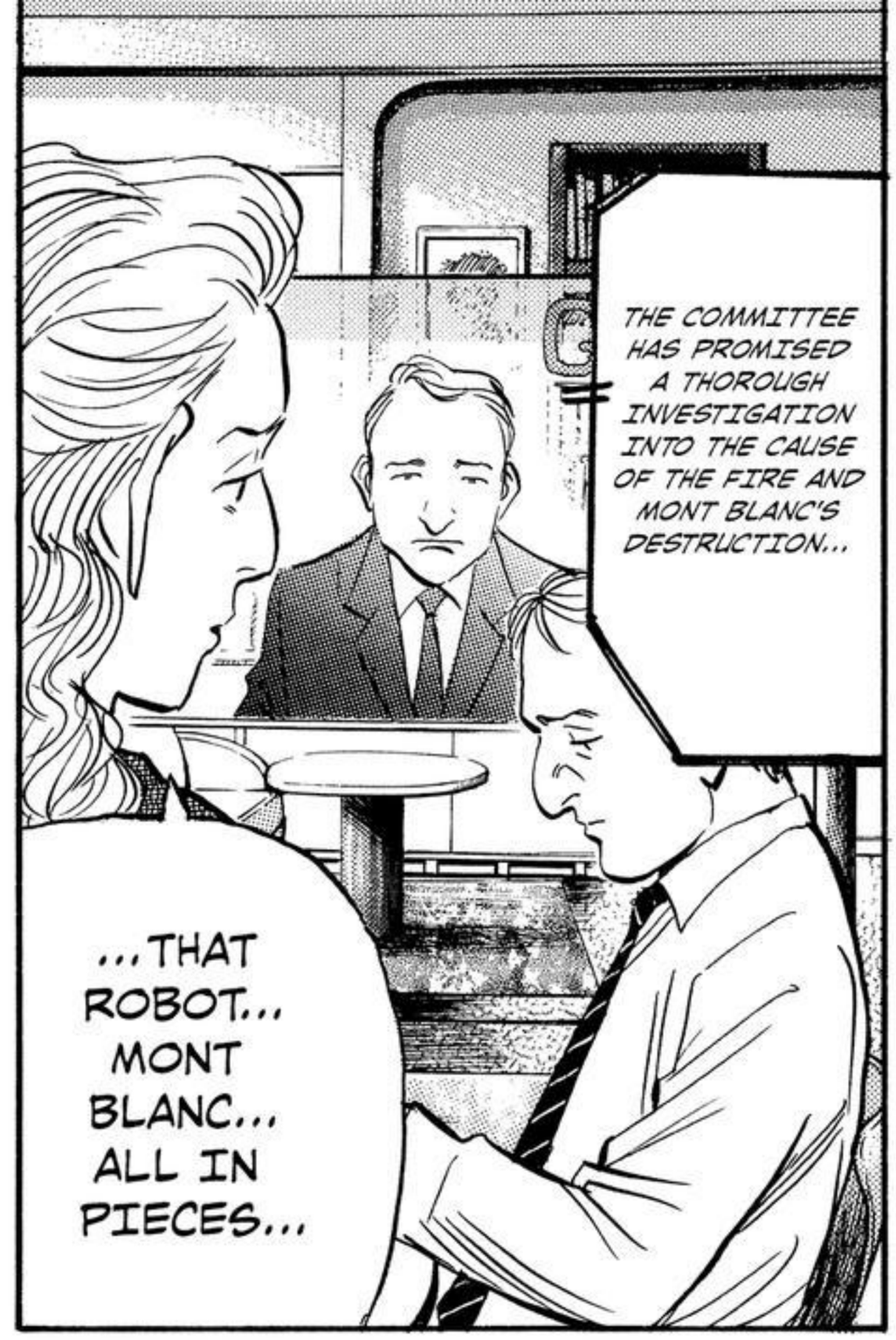
BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO MONT BLANC?

...SAW WHAT?

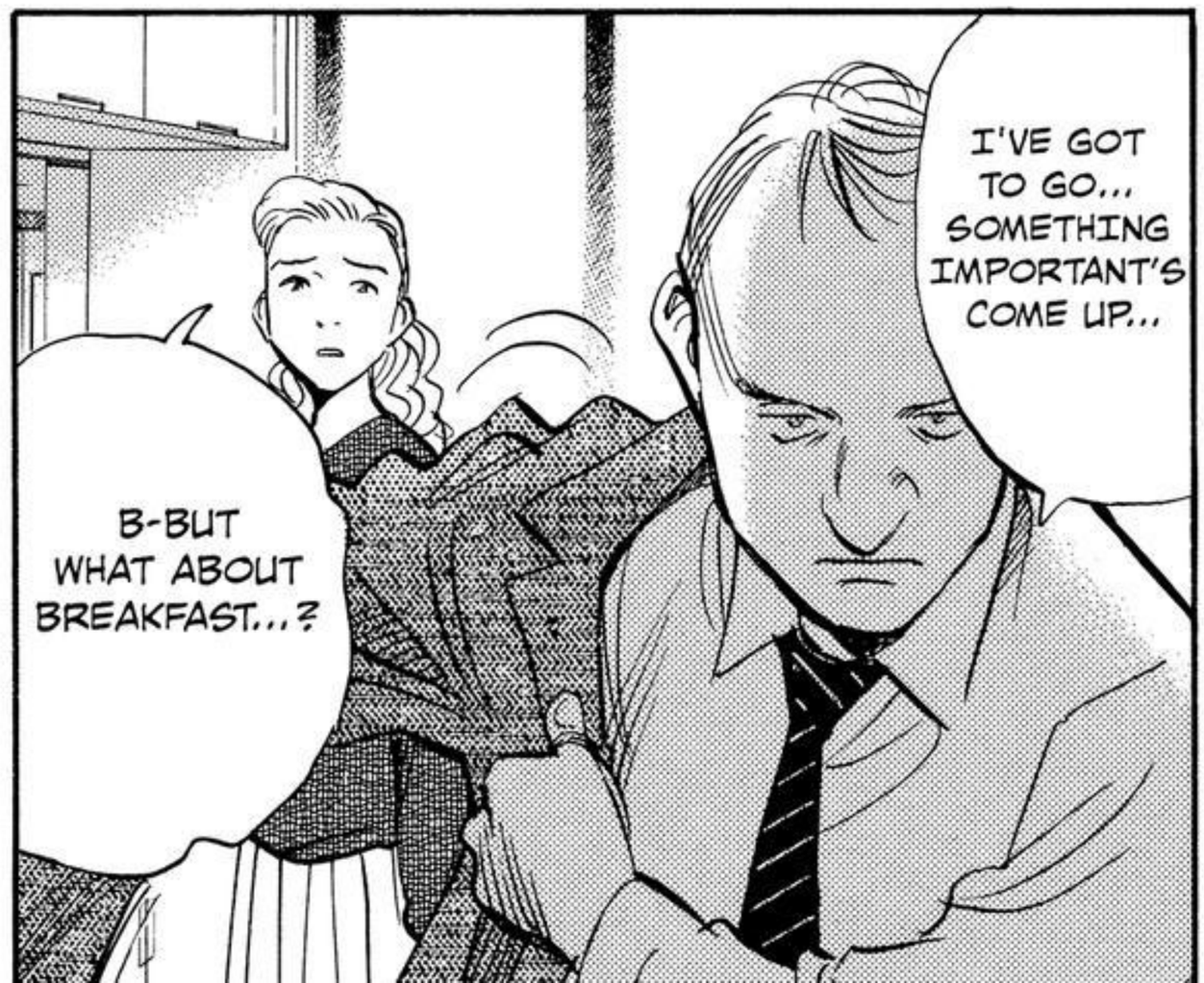
MEANWHILE, WE ARE BEING DELUGED WITH MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE FROM MONT BLANC'S FANS AROUND THE WORLD...

I DID ...

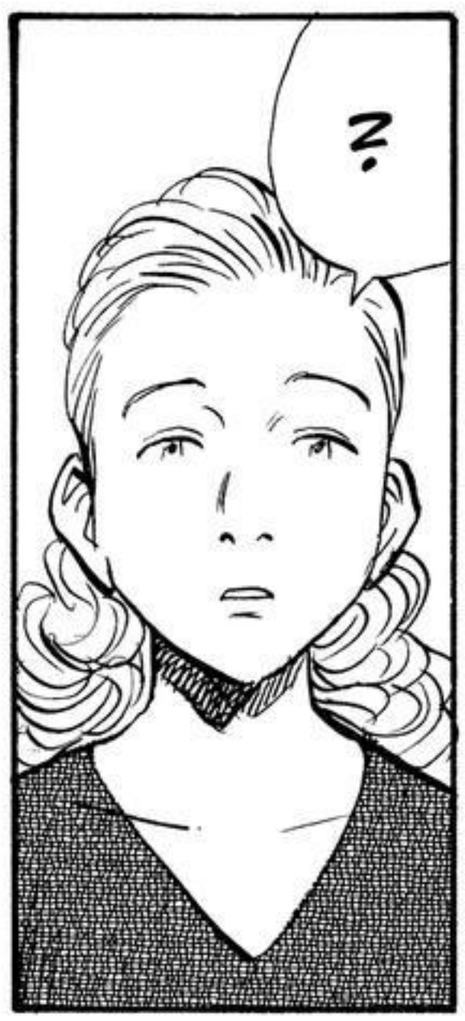

HE WAS TORN TO PIECES... SCATTERED ALL ABOUT...

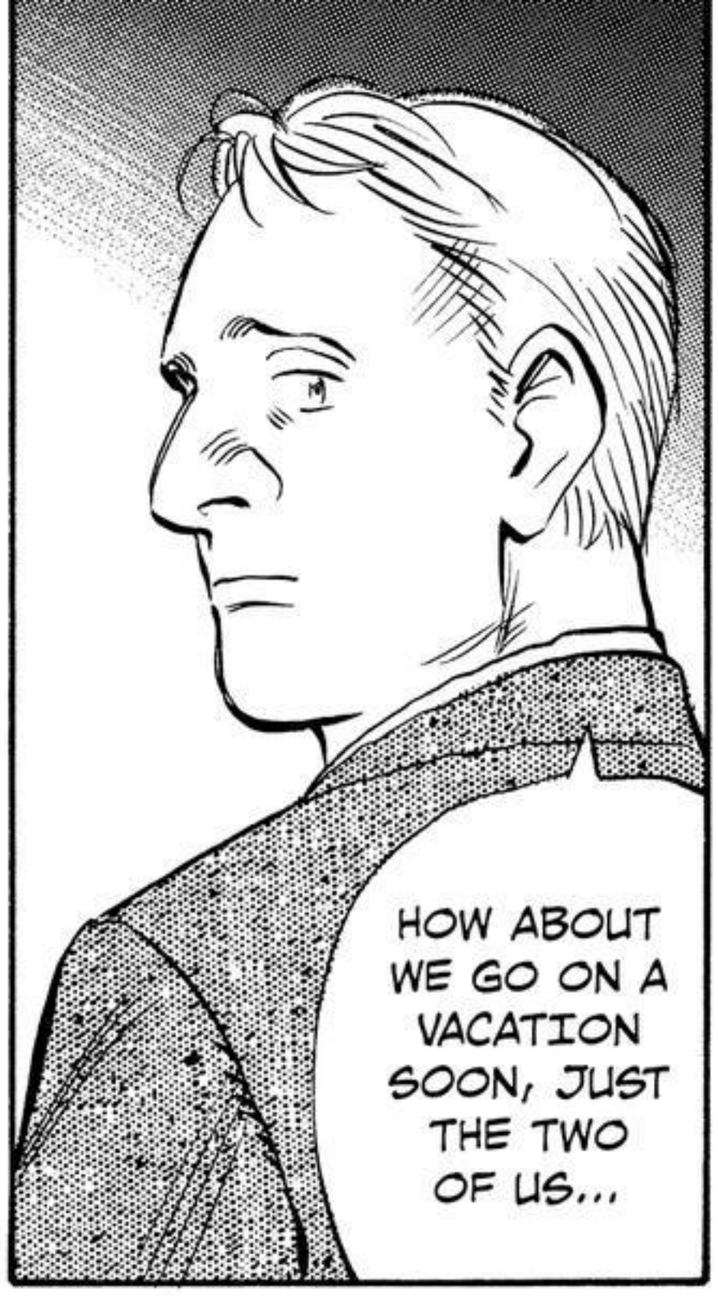

THE COMMITTEE HAS PROMISED A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE AND MONT BLANC'S DESTRUCTION...
...THAT ROBOT... MONT BLANC... ALL IN PIECES...

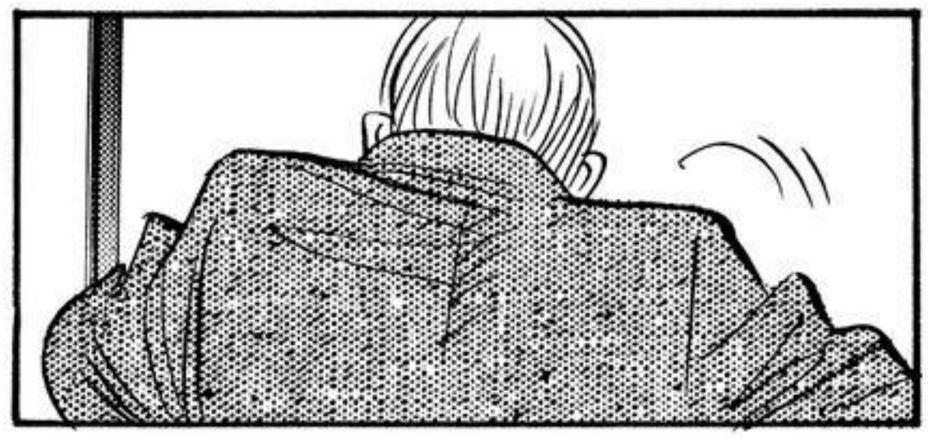
HELLO? GESICHT HERE...


I'VE GOT TO GO... SOMETHING IMPORTANT'S COME UP...
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST...?

GOT IT... I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY...
RIGHT ...

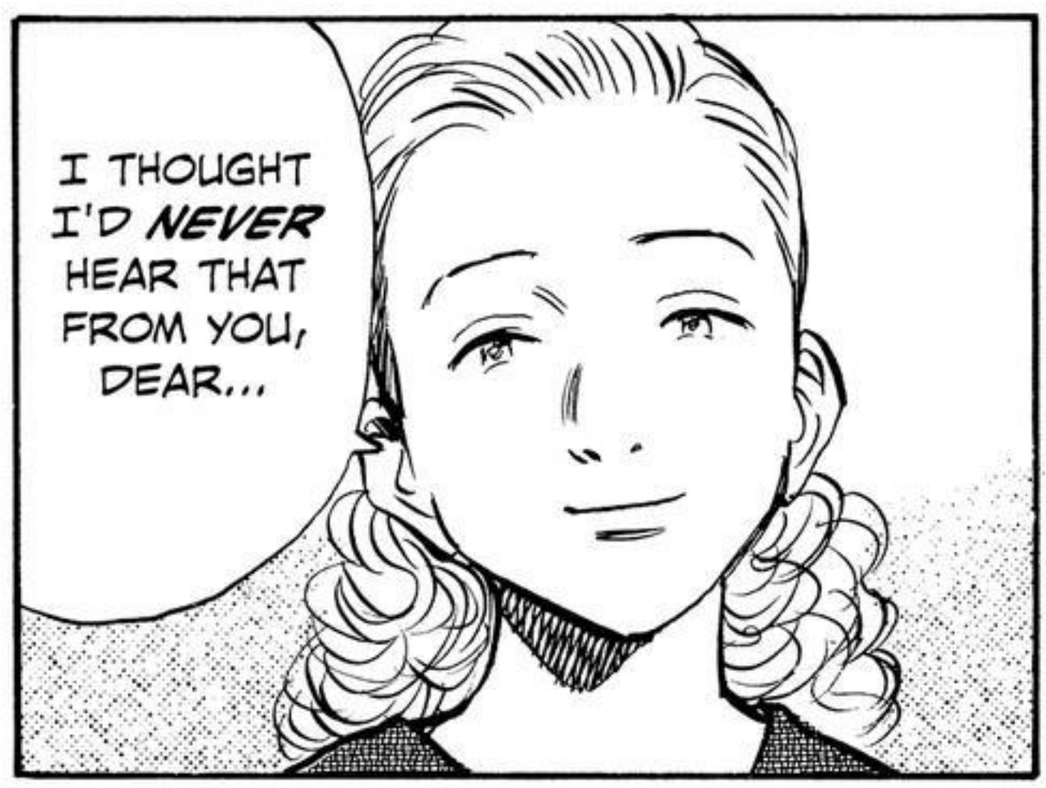

?


HOW ABOUT WE GO ON A VACATION SOON, JUST THE TWO OF US...

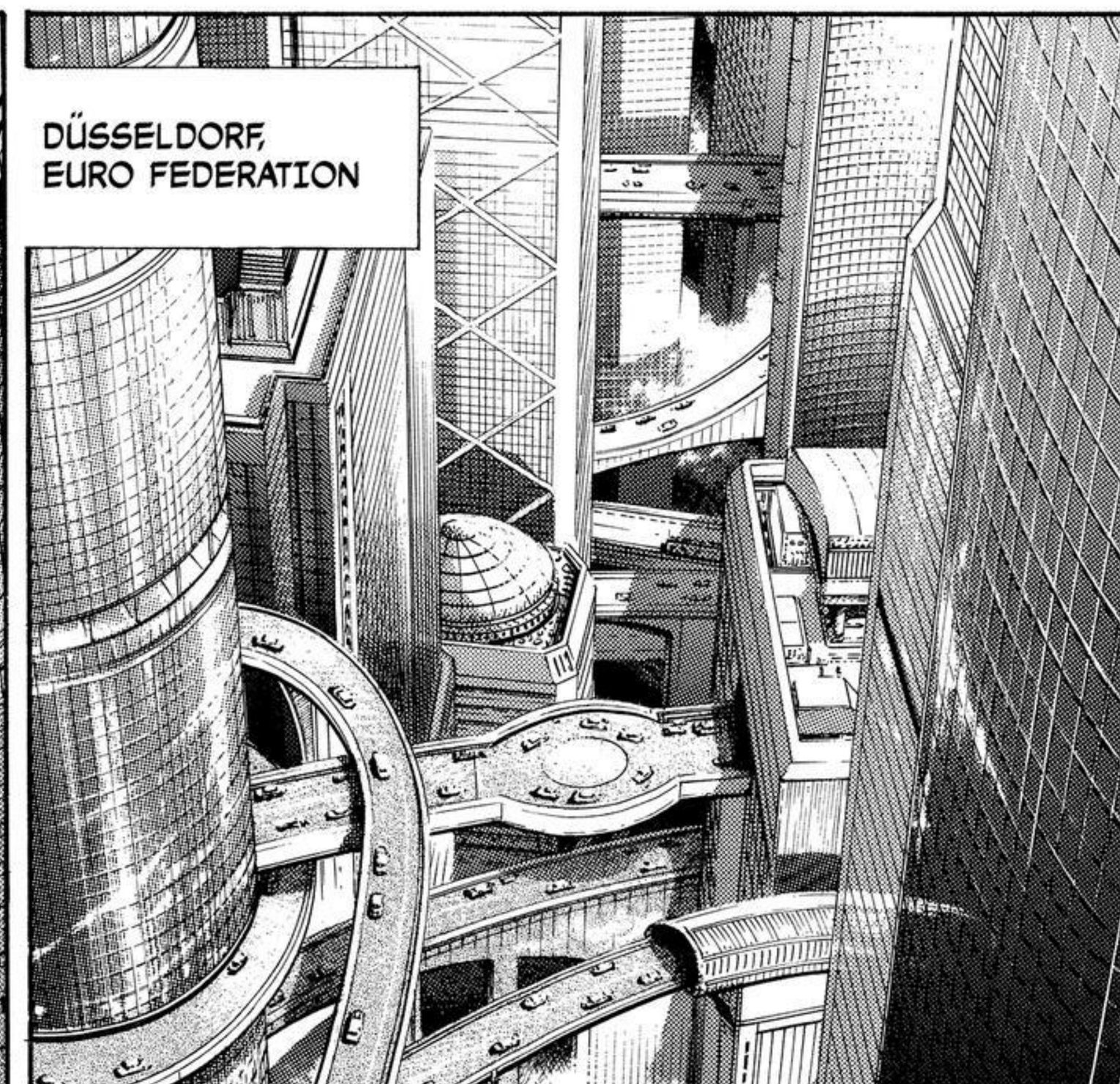


?

LISTEN, HELENA ...


I THOUGHT I'D *NEVER* HEAR THAT FROM YOU, DEAR...

YOU SAID I SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF...


DÜSSELDORF, EURO FEDERATION

MALE, SIR. HE APPARENTLY LIVED IN THIS APARTMENT. HE WAS FORTY-TWO...
POLIZEI

CRUNCH
AND THE VICTIM?

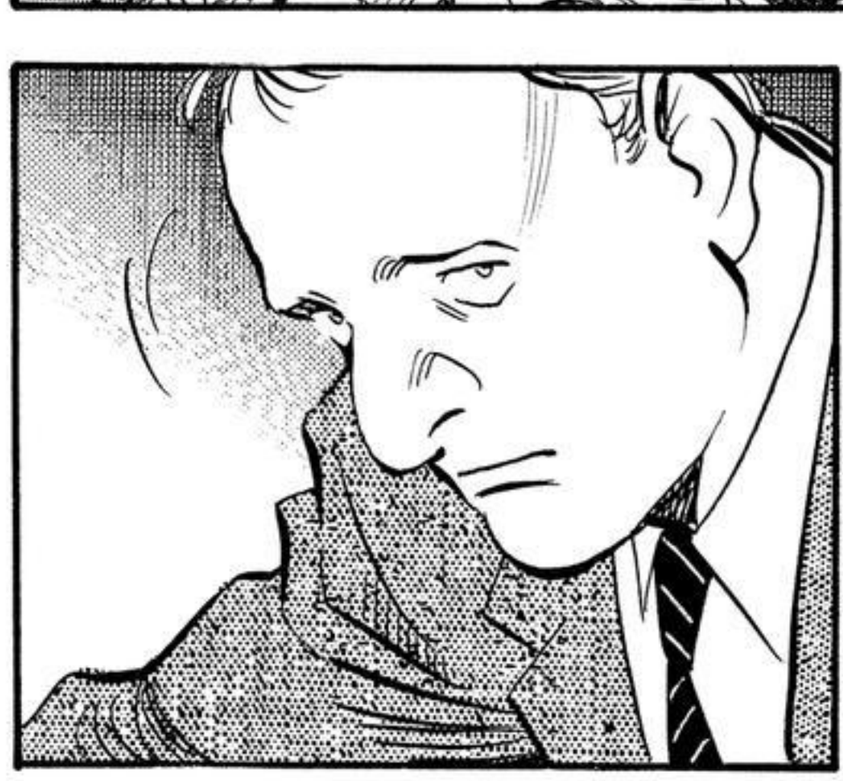
HIS NAME WAS BERNARD LANKE. HE WAS A KEY MEMBER IN THE MOVEMENT TO PRESERVE THE ROBOT LAWS.
POLIZEI

ER... YES SIR. HUMAN...

WAS HE HUMAN?

CLUNK

NOT A PRETTY SIGHT...



I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR CRIME SCENE!
YOU THERE!

NAME'S GESICHT, GENTLE-MEN...
BZZT
0028-8099-24533

HMPH ...
UM... INSPECTOR, SIR... HE'S... UM... FROM EUROPOL...

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PLACE IS PRETTY WELL TORN UP.

WE'LL BE HARD PUT TO FIGURE OUT IF ANYTHING'S MISSING...

I'M INSPECTOR WALLACE, CITY POLICE.

I... SEE...

W-WAIT A MINUTE, PAL... THE ROOM'S BEEN TOTALLY TRASHED! HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?!

THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYTHING MISSING...

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

ACTUALLY, IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT ROBBERY WAS THE MOTIVE HERE...

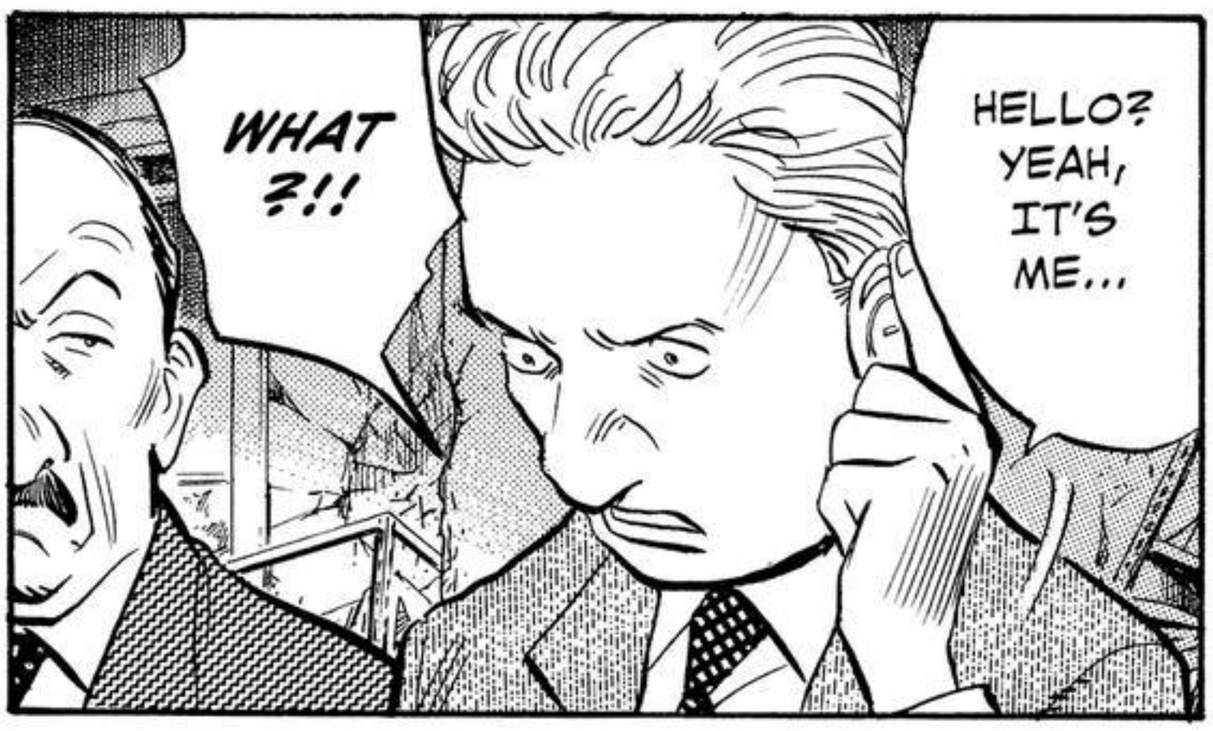
...

I JUST KNOW...

WHOEVER DID THIS WASN'T INTERESTED IN STEALING ANYTHING...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THESE ITEMS SHOVED INTO THE VICTIM'S HEAD? KIND OF STAGED TO LOOK LIKE HORNS...

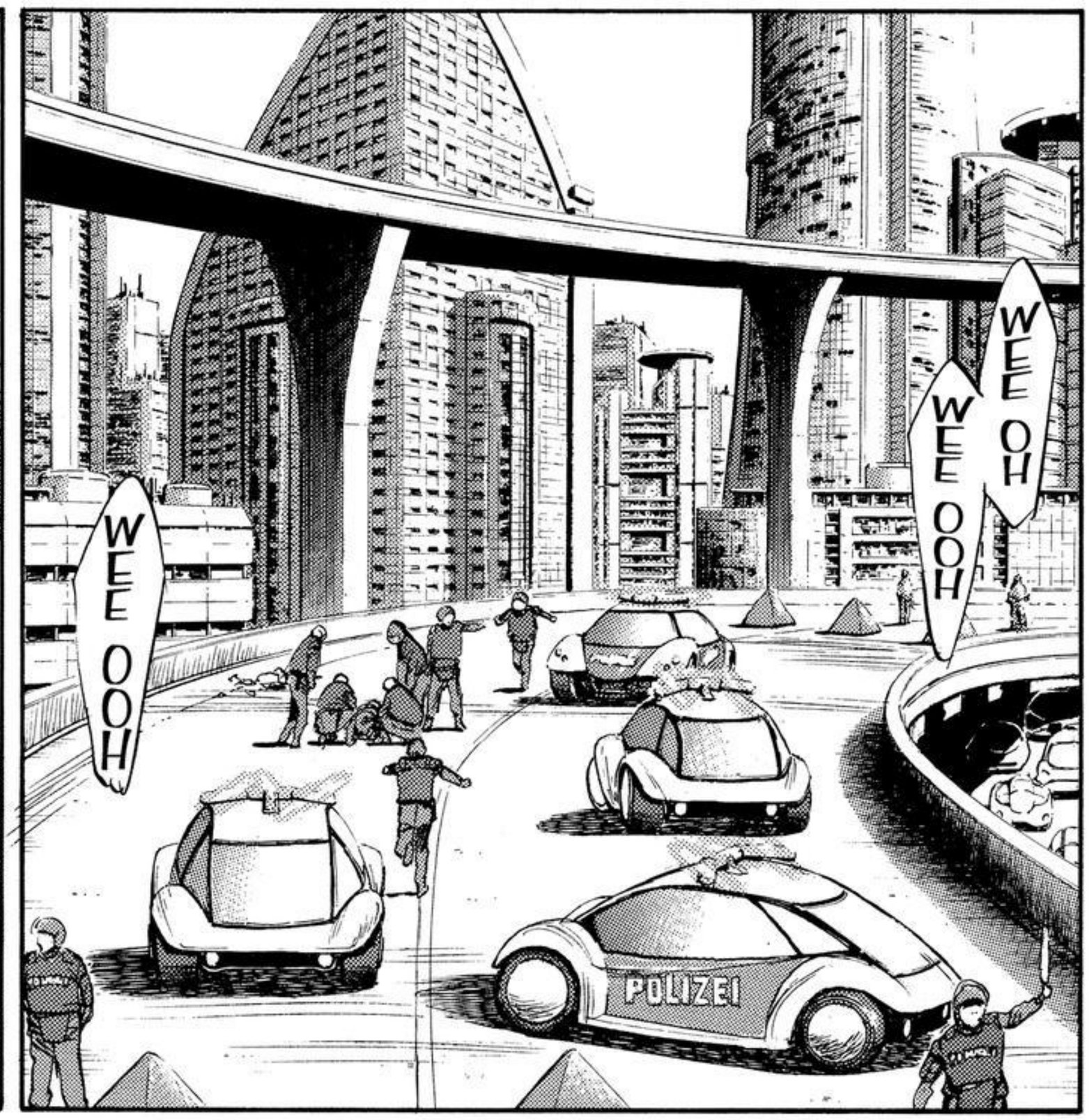
...


WHAT ?!!
HELLO? YEAH, IT'S ME...

!!
INSPECTOR... SOMEONE'S BROKEN THROUGH ONE OF OUR CHECKPOINTS!

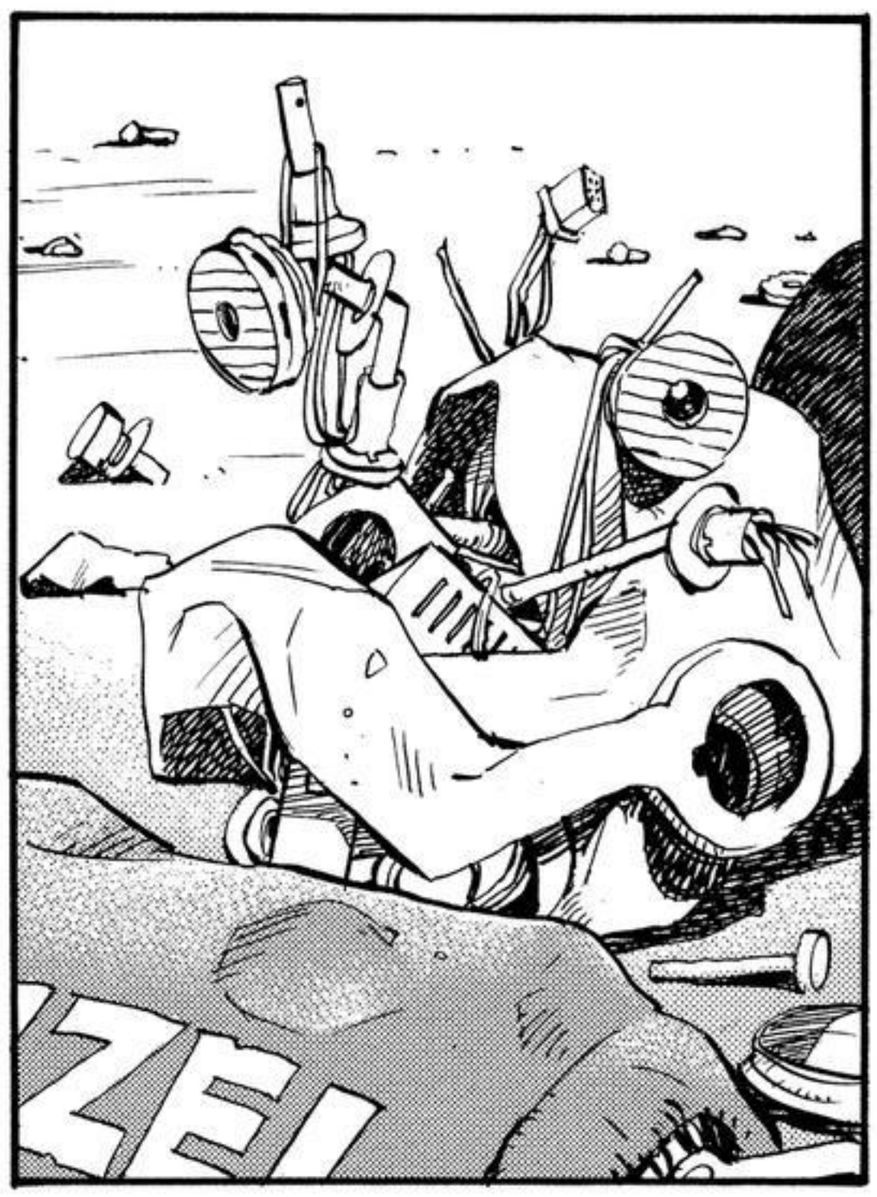
RING RING ♫

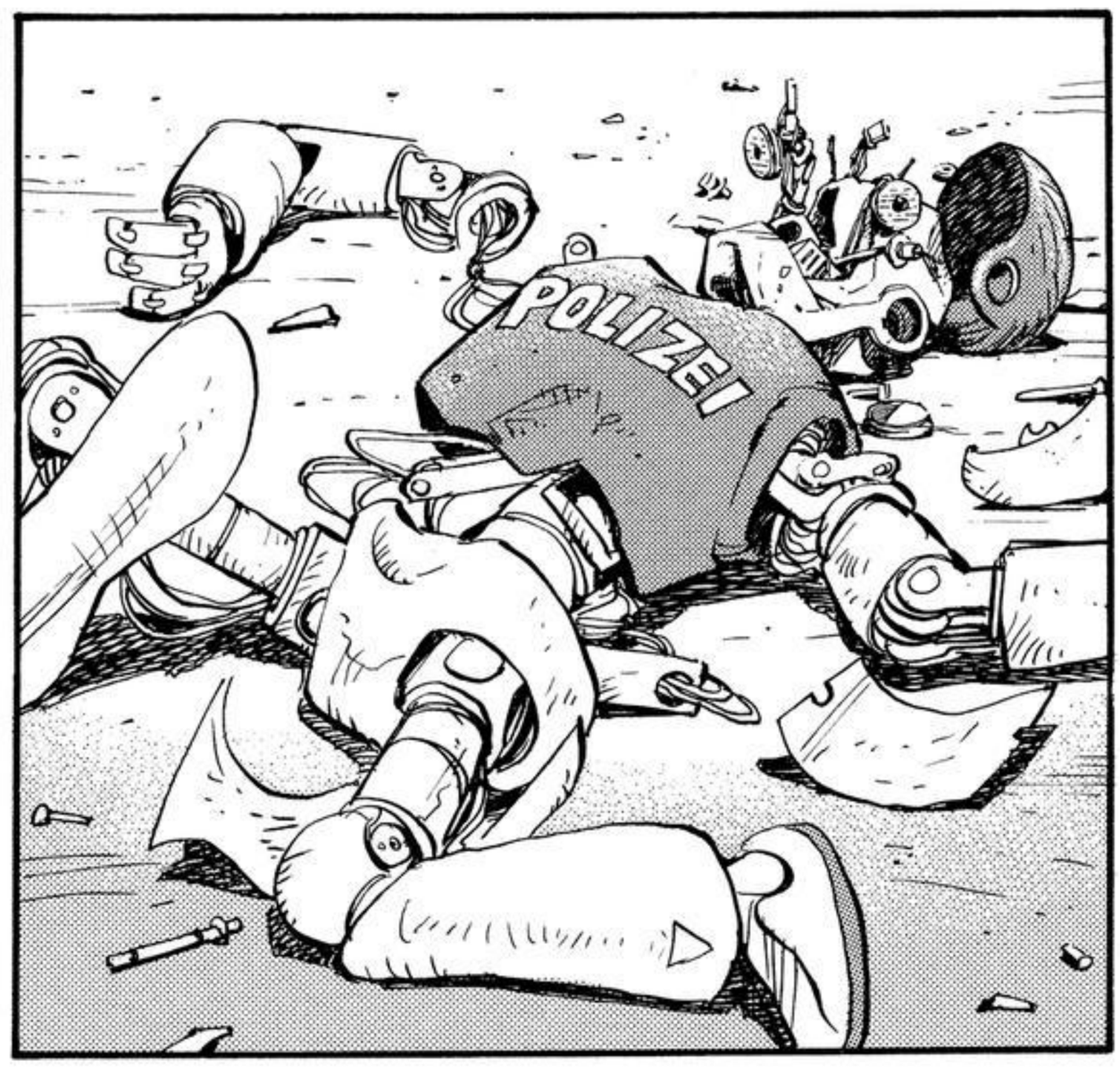
WEE OOH
WEE OH
POLIZEI
POLIZEI
WEE OH
WEE OOH



I...
I MEAN
PATROL-BOT
PRC MODEL
1332...

N...NO...
HE GOT
ROBBY,
TOO...
HE WAS
MANNING
THE
CHECK-
POINT...
MY
PARTNER
ROBBY...
POLIZEI

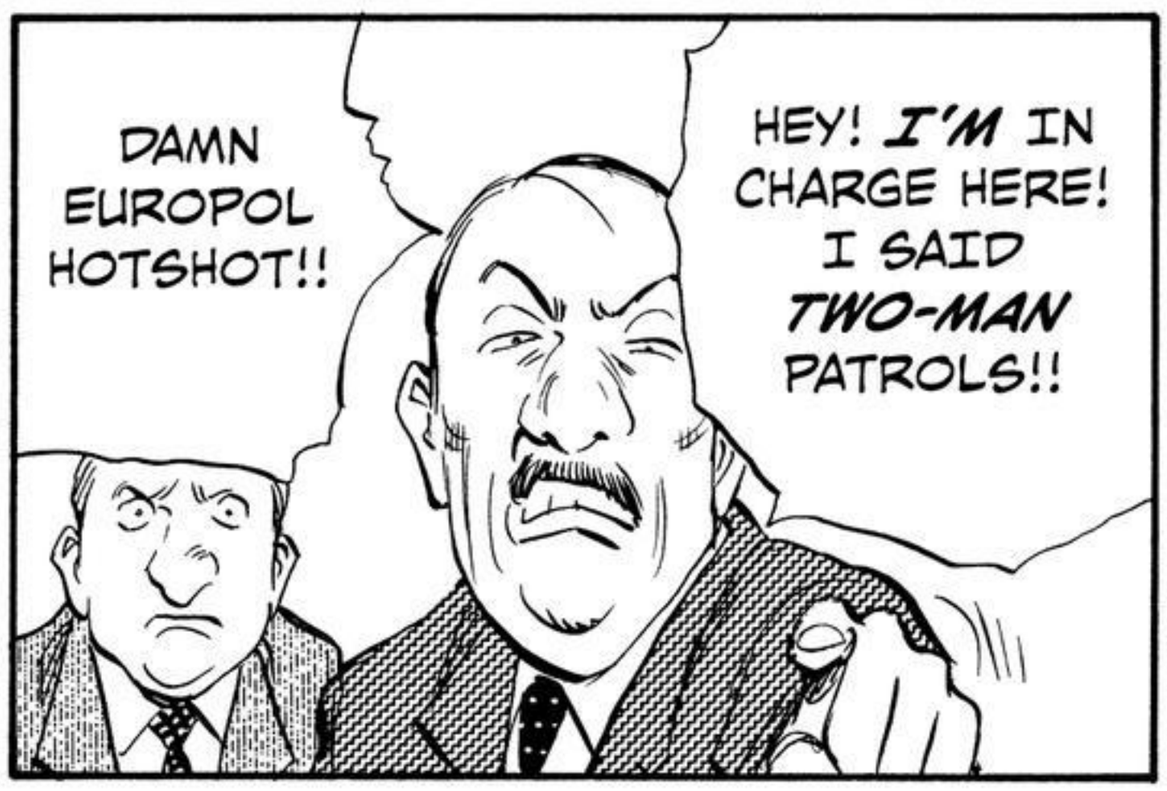

ZEI

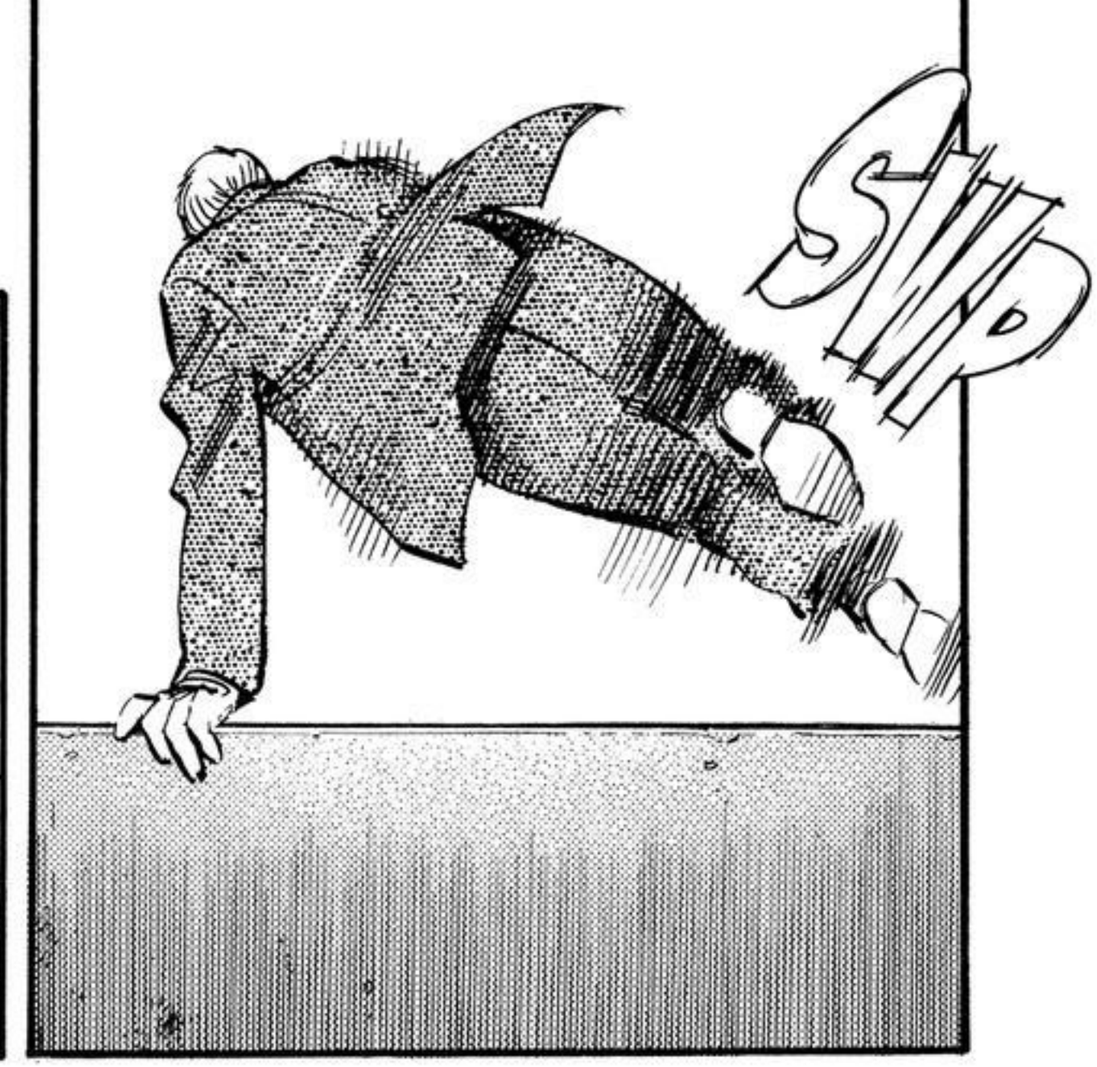

POLIZEI

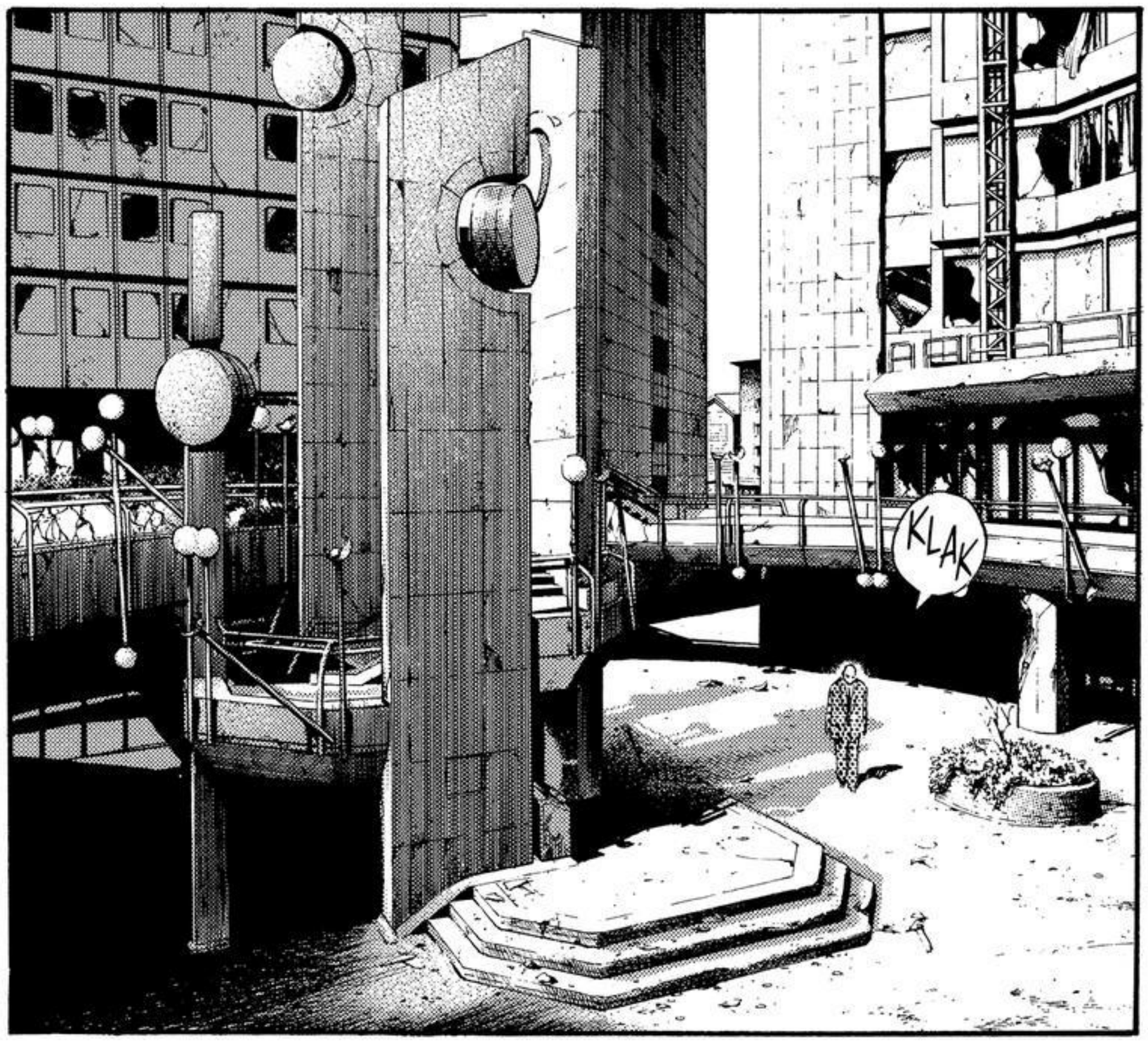
WHAT
THE--?!

I WANT
TWO-MAN
PATROLS
DISPATCHED...
NOW!
SUSPECT'S A MALE IN HIS
TWENTIES, SIR. WEARS
A RED CAP AND HAS
TATTOOS ON BOTH ARMS...
SEEMS LIKE HE ESCAPED
INTO THE OLD CITY'S
REDEVELOPMENT ZONE...

HOW COULD THE
PATROL-BOT
HAVE BEEN
DESTROYED
SO EASILY?


DAMN EUROPOL HOTSHOT!!
HEY! I'M IN CHARGE HERE! I SAID TWO-MAN PATROLS!!

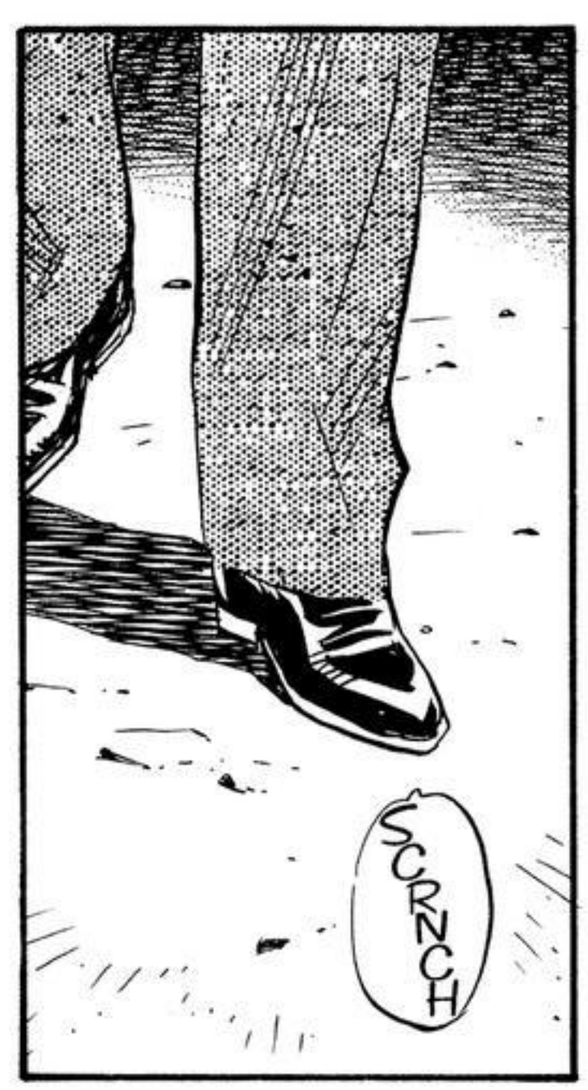

SLIP


KLAK

KLAK

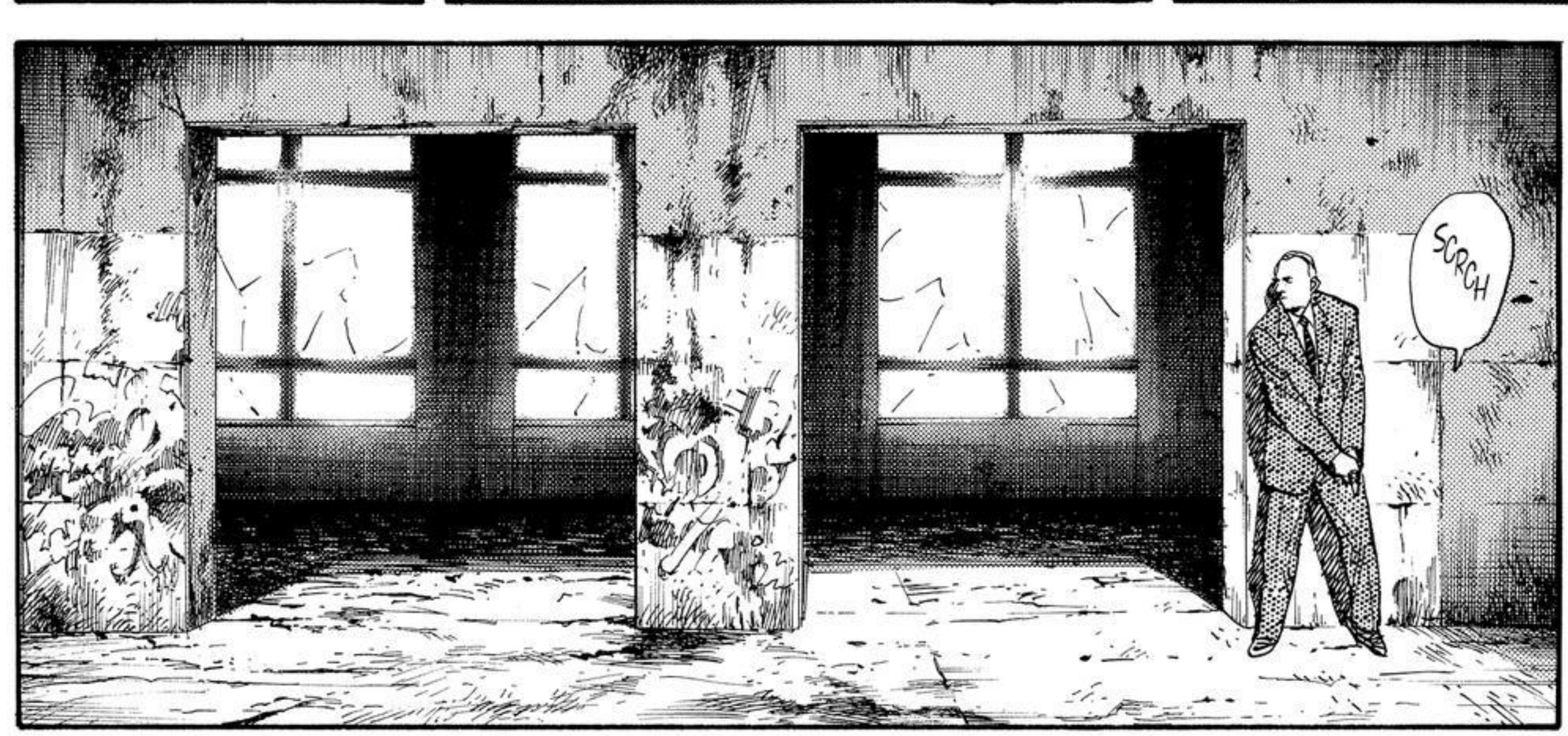
KLAK KLAK

KLAK


SCRNCH

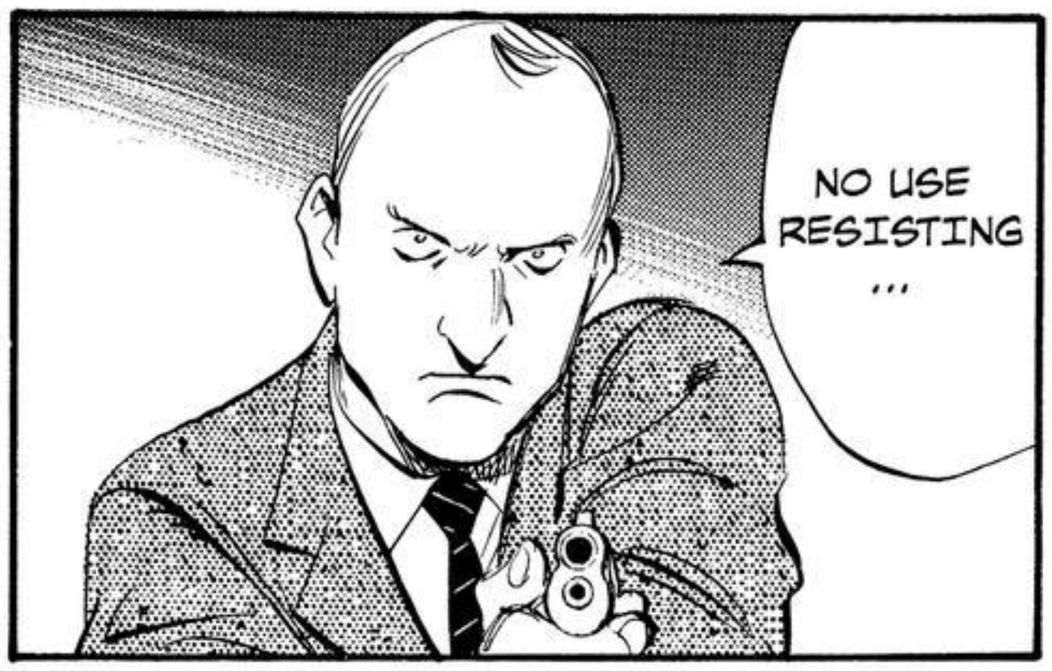
KLAK
KLAK

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK


SCRCH

HOOSH

CHAK

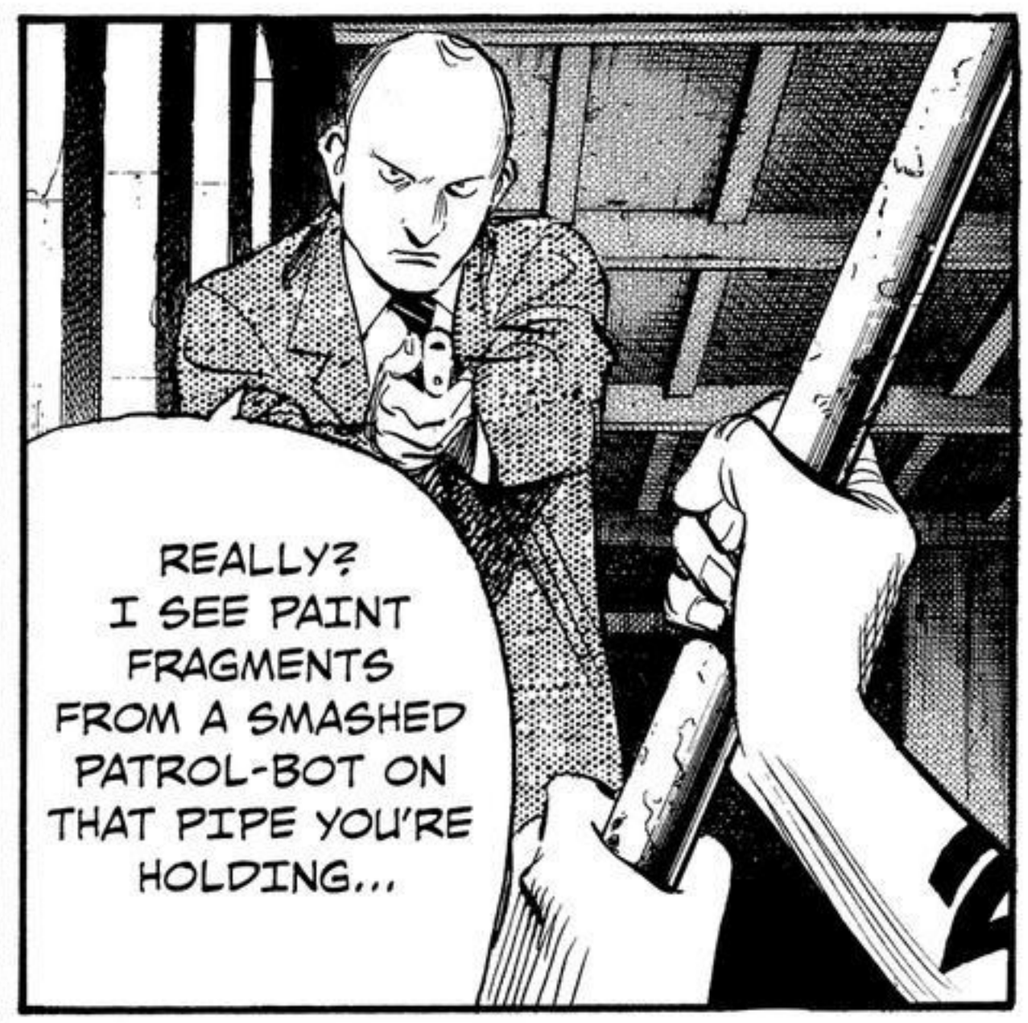

NO USE RESISTING ...

AIIEE!!

BUT I... I AIN'T DONE NUTHIN'!!

ANOTHER JUNKIE, EH?

GASP


REALLY? I SEE PAINT FRAGMENTS FROM A SMASHED PATROL-BOT ON THAT PIPE YOU'RE HOLDING...

AH... UM...

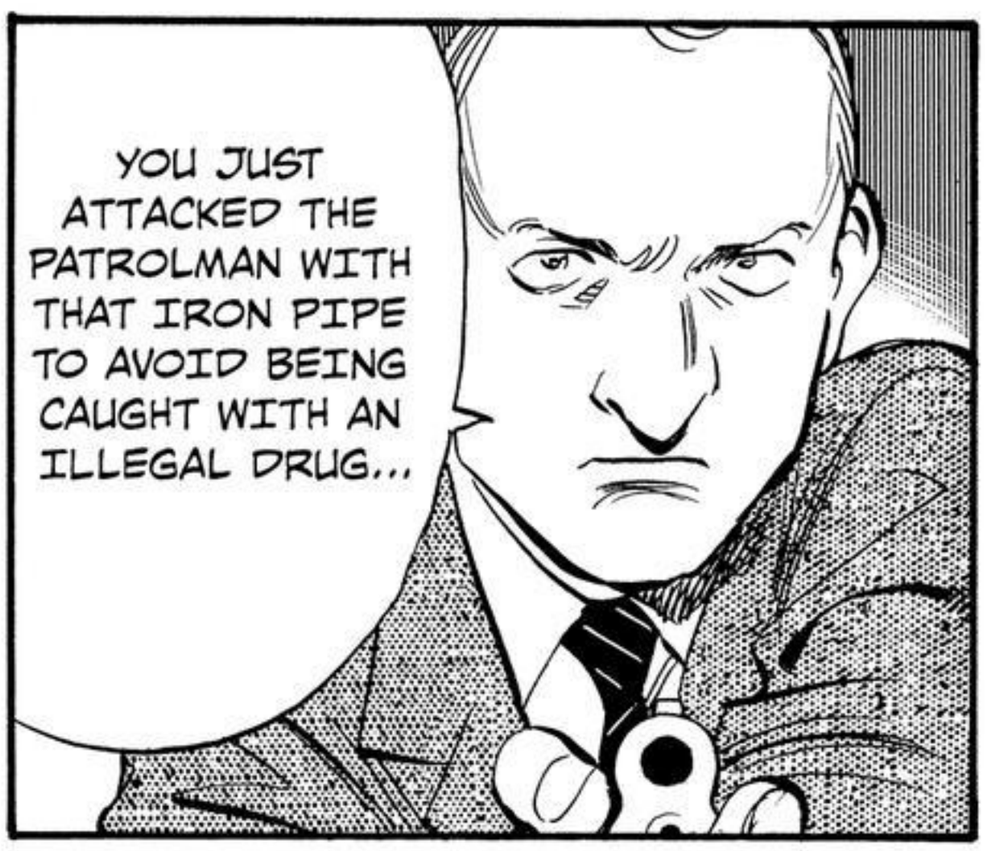
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?!
YOU'RE HOOKED ON NOI, AND YOU TOOK SOME APPROXIMATELY FORTY MINUTES AGO, RIGHT?

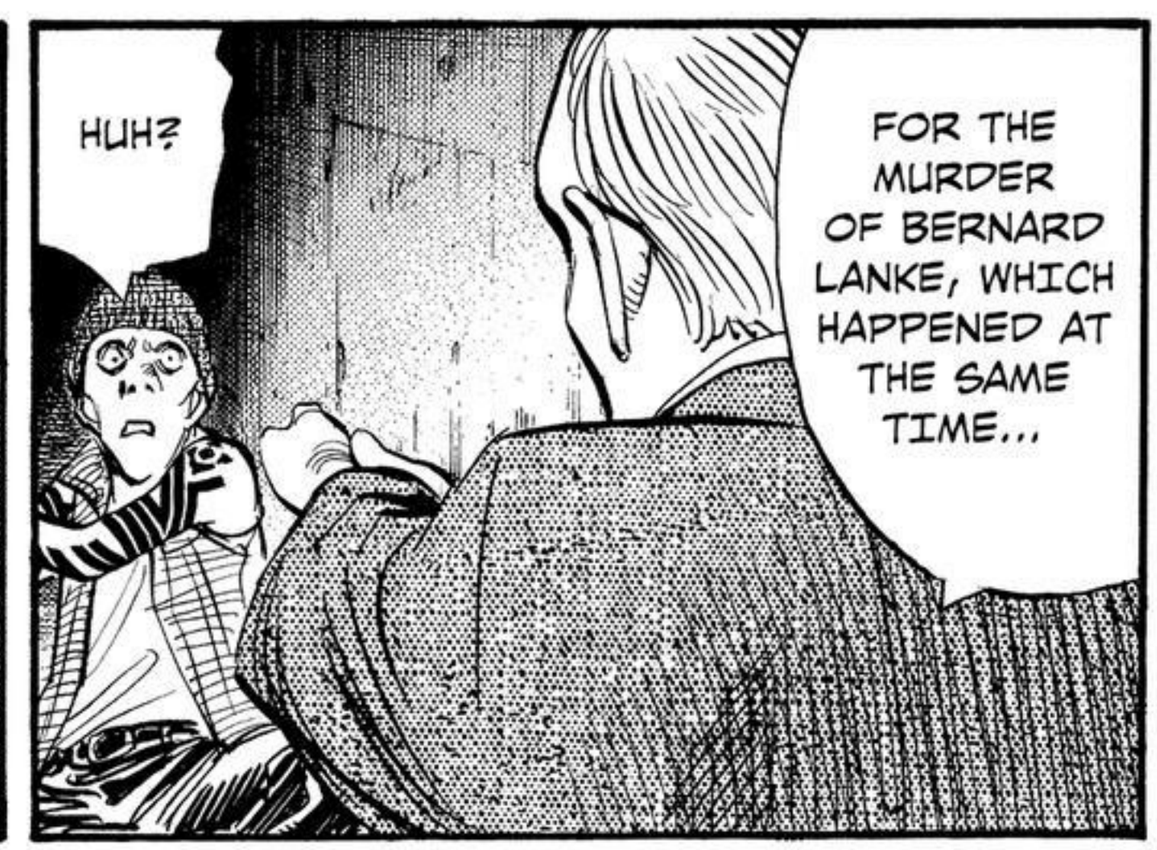
I... I DUNNO... A-AROUND DAWN... MAYBE FIVE O'CLOCK OR SO...

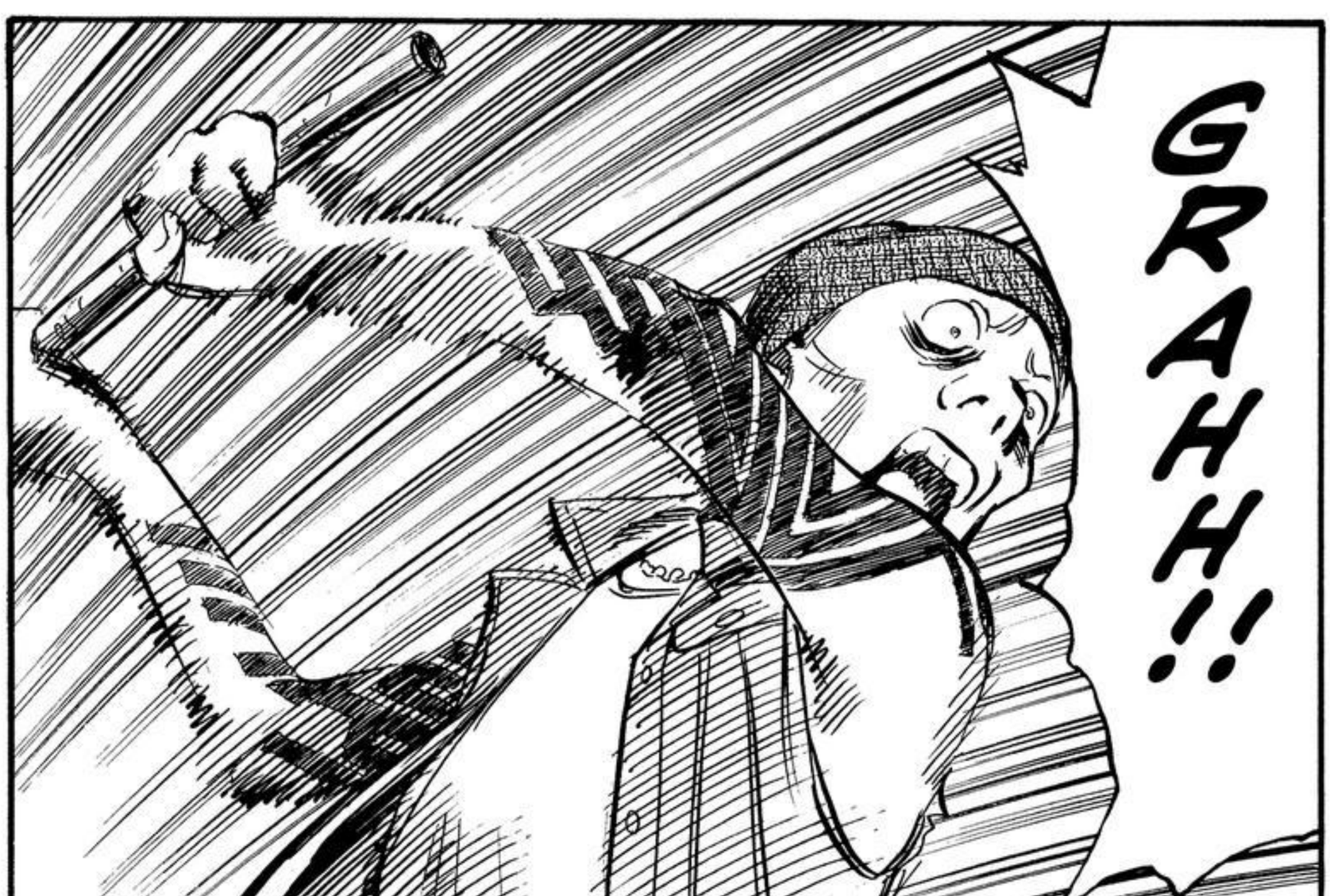
WHAT TIME DID YOU MEET HIM...?

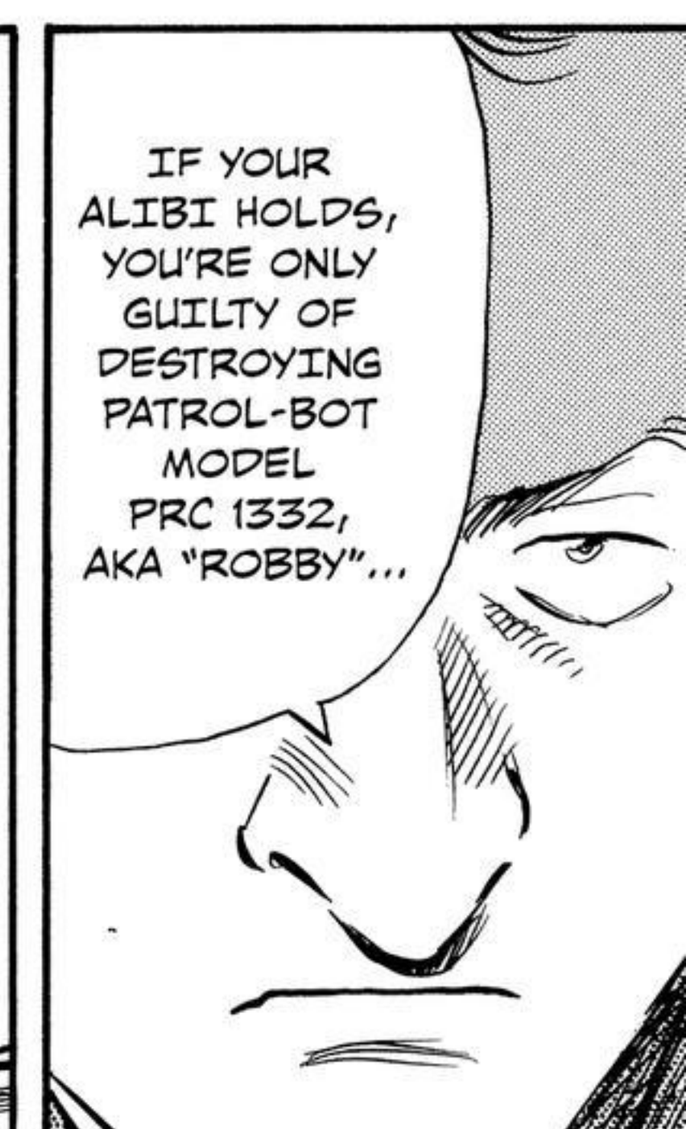
TELL ME WHO SOLD IT TO YOU!
IT... IT WAS A GUY NAMED SCHULZ... ON K-KARL HEINZ STREET...

I DO? F-FOR *WHAT* ...?
WELL, IF HE'LL VOUCH FOR YOU, YOU'VE GOT AN ALIBI...


YOU JUST ATTACKED THE PATROLMAN WITH THAT IRON PIPE TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT WITH AN ILLEGAL DRUG...


HUH?
FOR THE MURDER OF BERNARD LANKE, WHICH HAPPENED AT THE SAME TIME...


GRAHH!!


IF YOUR ALIBI HOLDS, YOU'RE ONLY GUILTY OF DESTROYING PATROL-BOT MODEL PRC 1332, AKA "ROBBY"...

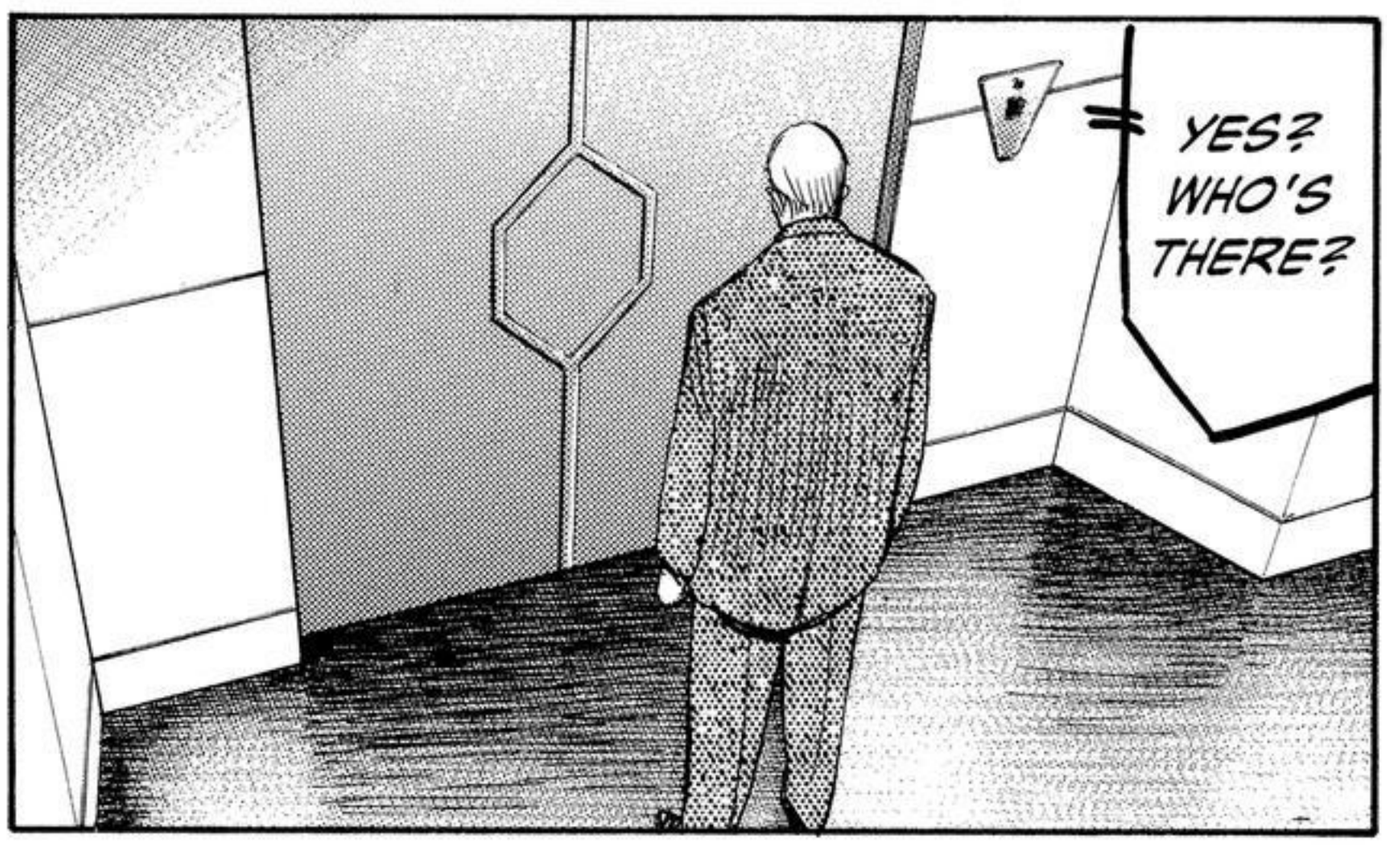
THWAK!
BASH!
WHAT THE--?
D-DON'T SHOOT!!
ACK!!
CLANK
I'M MADE SO I CAN'T KILL HUMANS...
DON'T WORRY, MY FRIEND ...
P-PLEASE... DON'T SHOOT ME!!

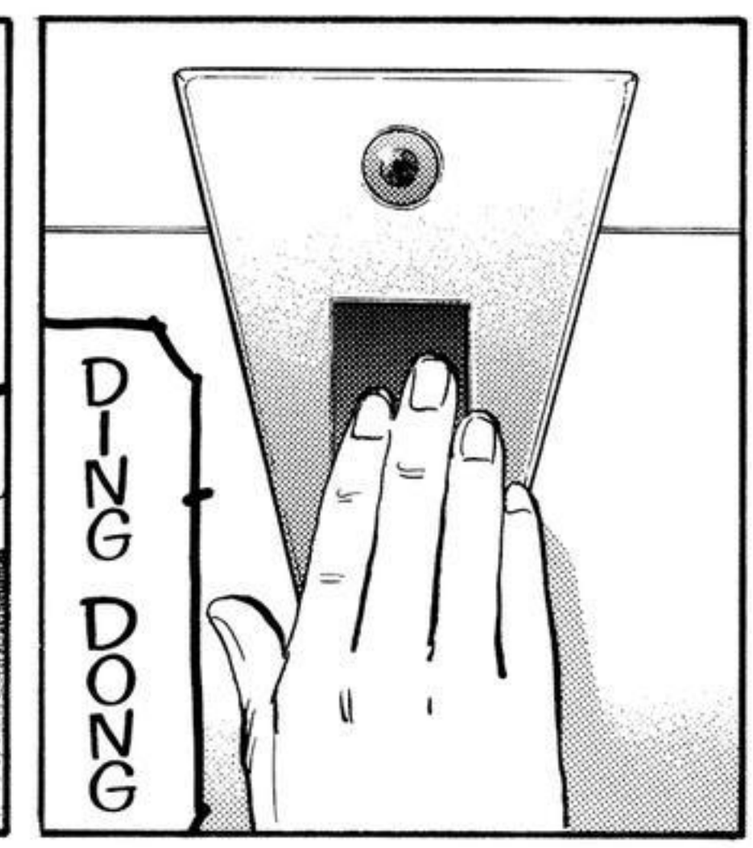
I'M A *ROBOT*!

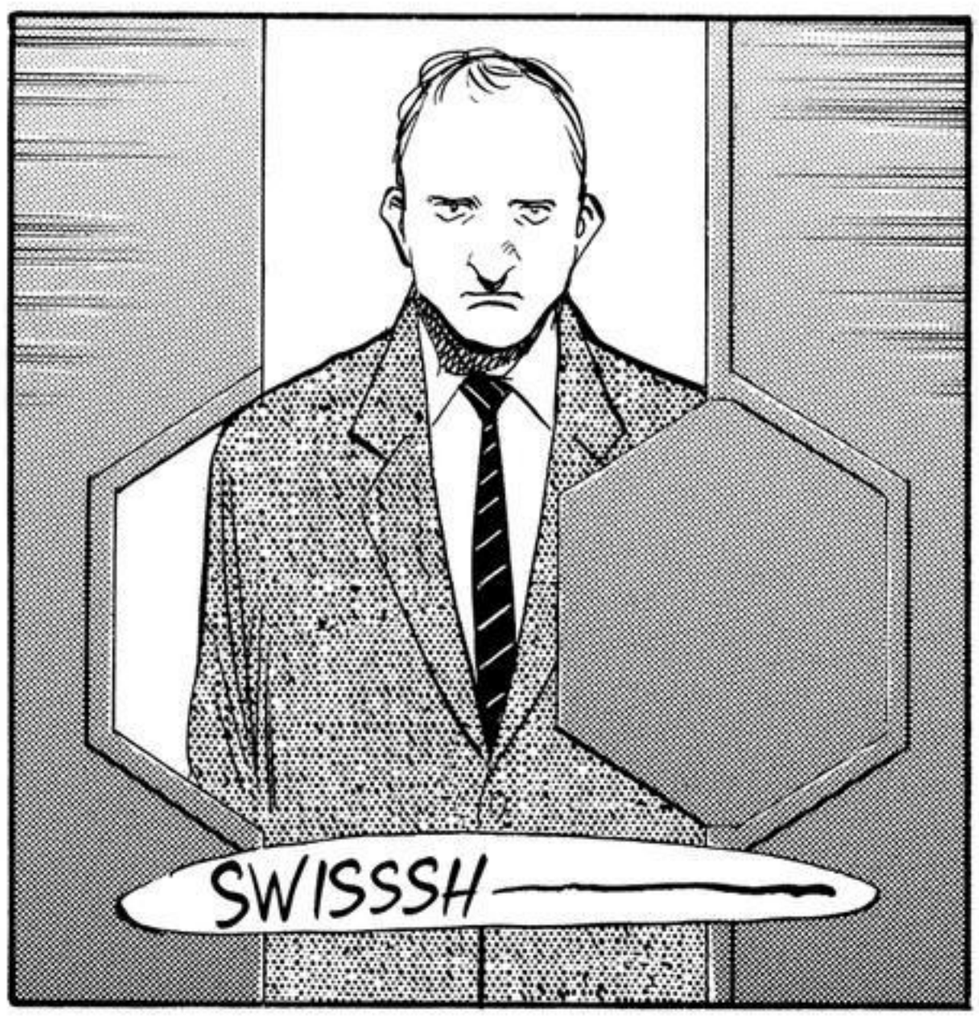
NOW, I CAN READ YOU YOUR RIGHTS AND YOU'LL LET ME *ARREST* YOU... OR I CAN SHOOT YOU WITH HYPNO-GAS AND YOU'LL LOSE *CONSCIOUSNESS* ...

THE ONLY THING MY LEFT HAND SHOOTS IS HYPNO-GAS...

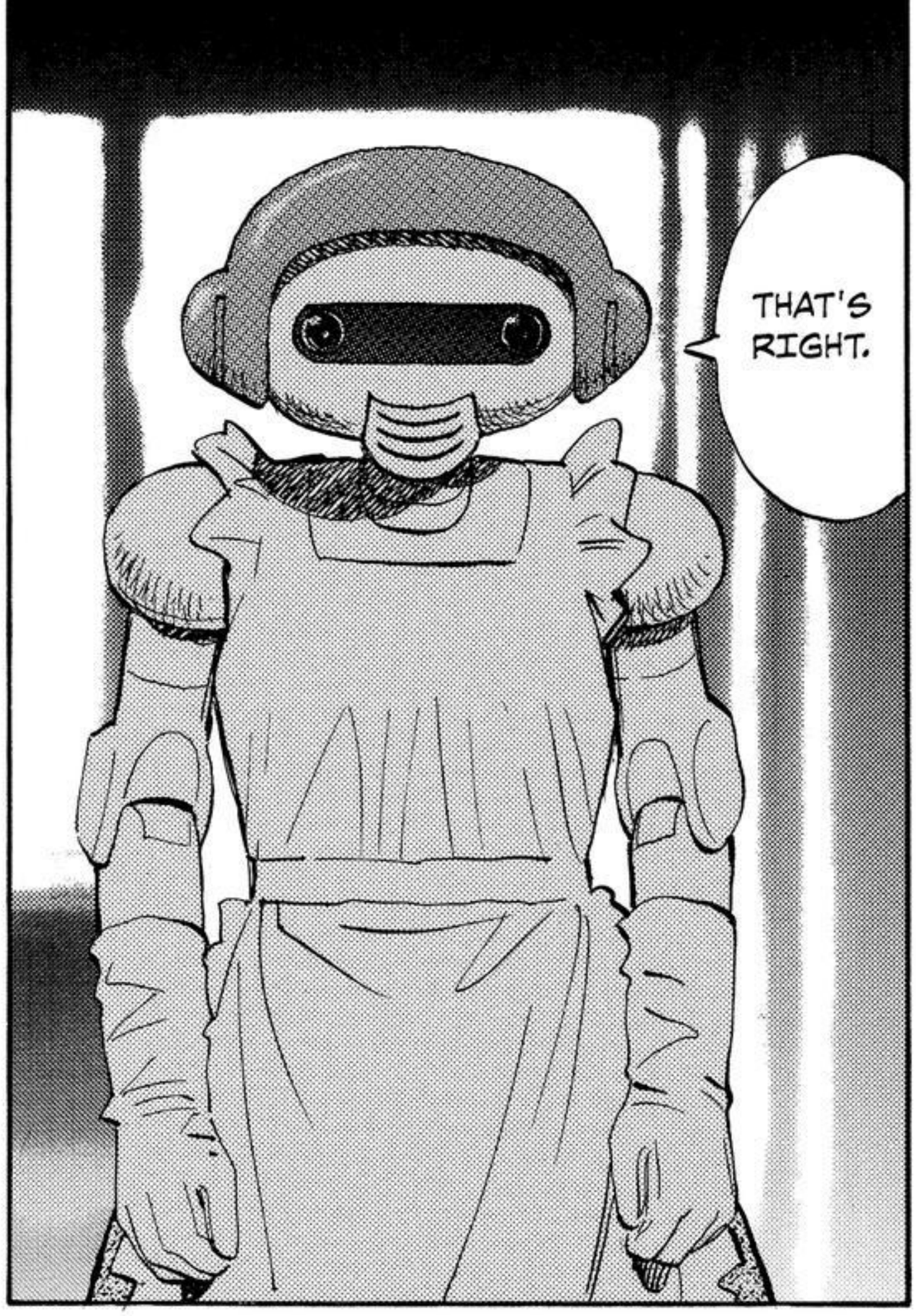
WEE OOH
WEE OOH
TAKE YOUR PICK! WHICH IS IT?!


YES? WHO'S THERE?

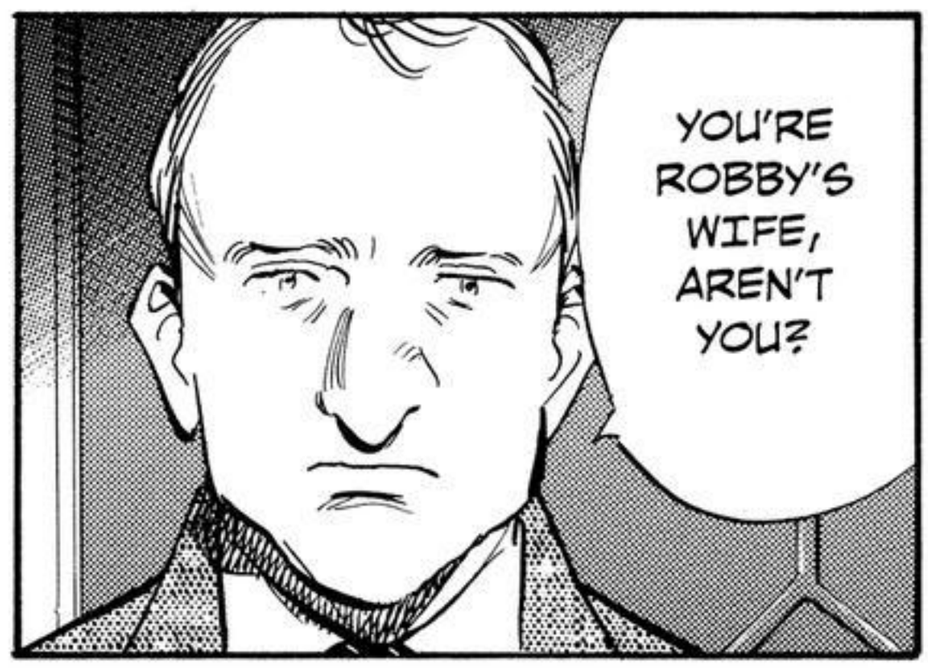

DING DONG

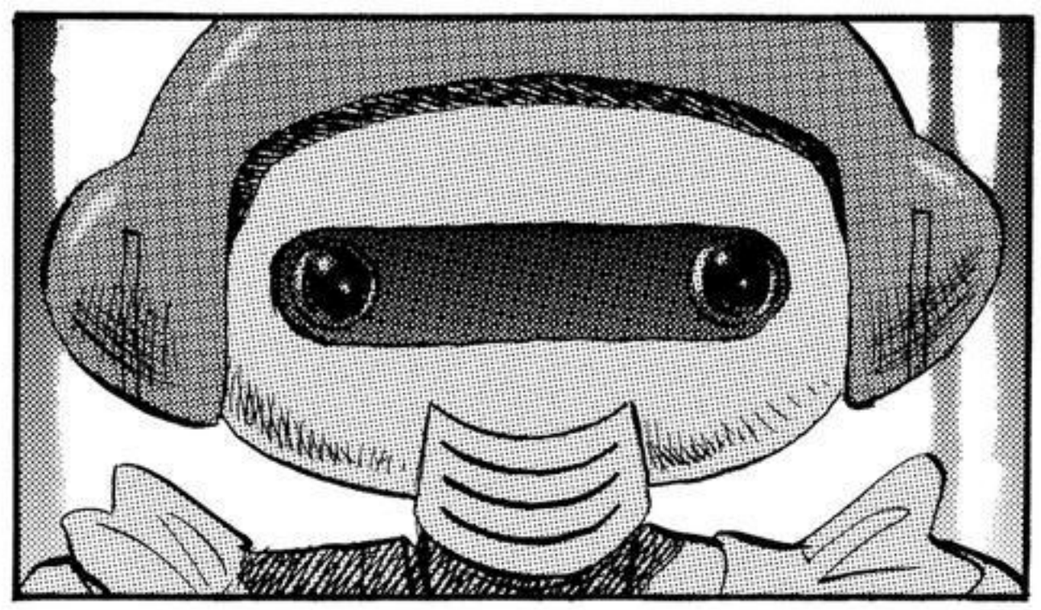

SWISSSH

SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR GESICHT... FROM EUROPOL.

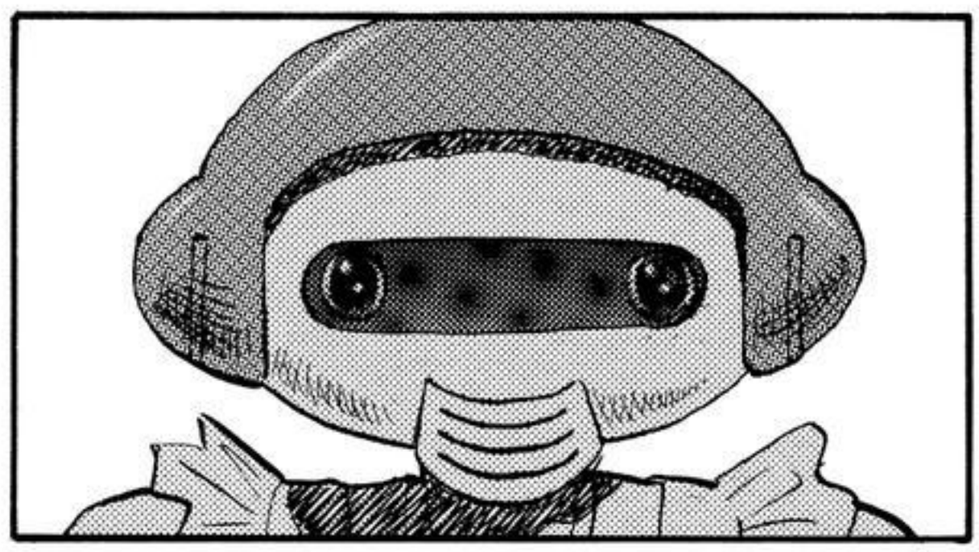

THAT'S RIGHT.

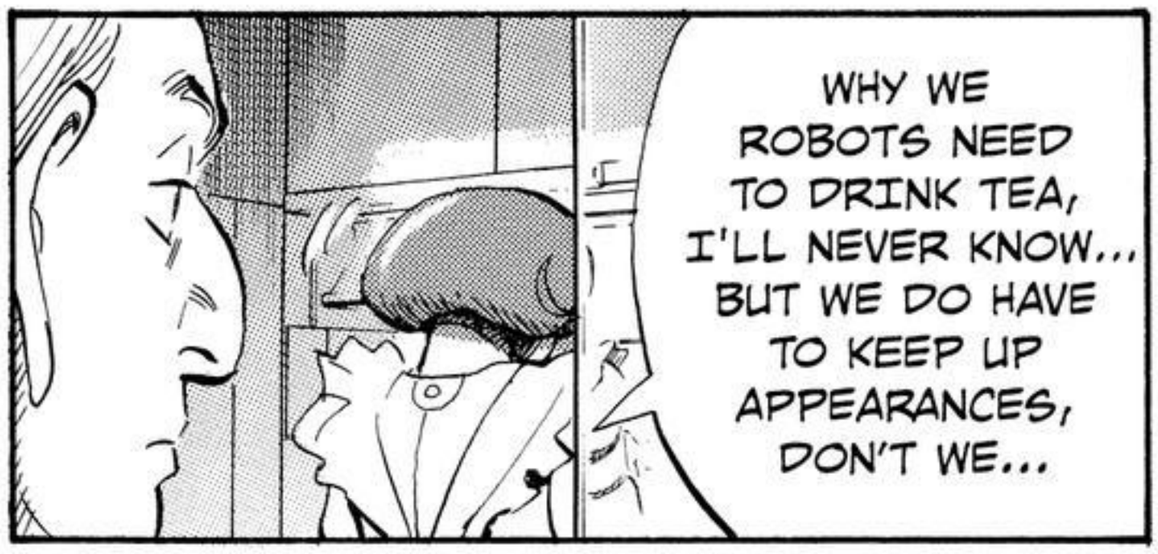
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

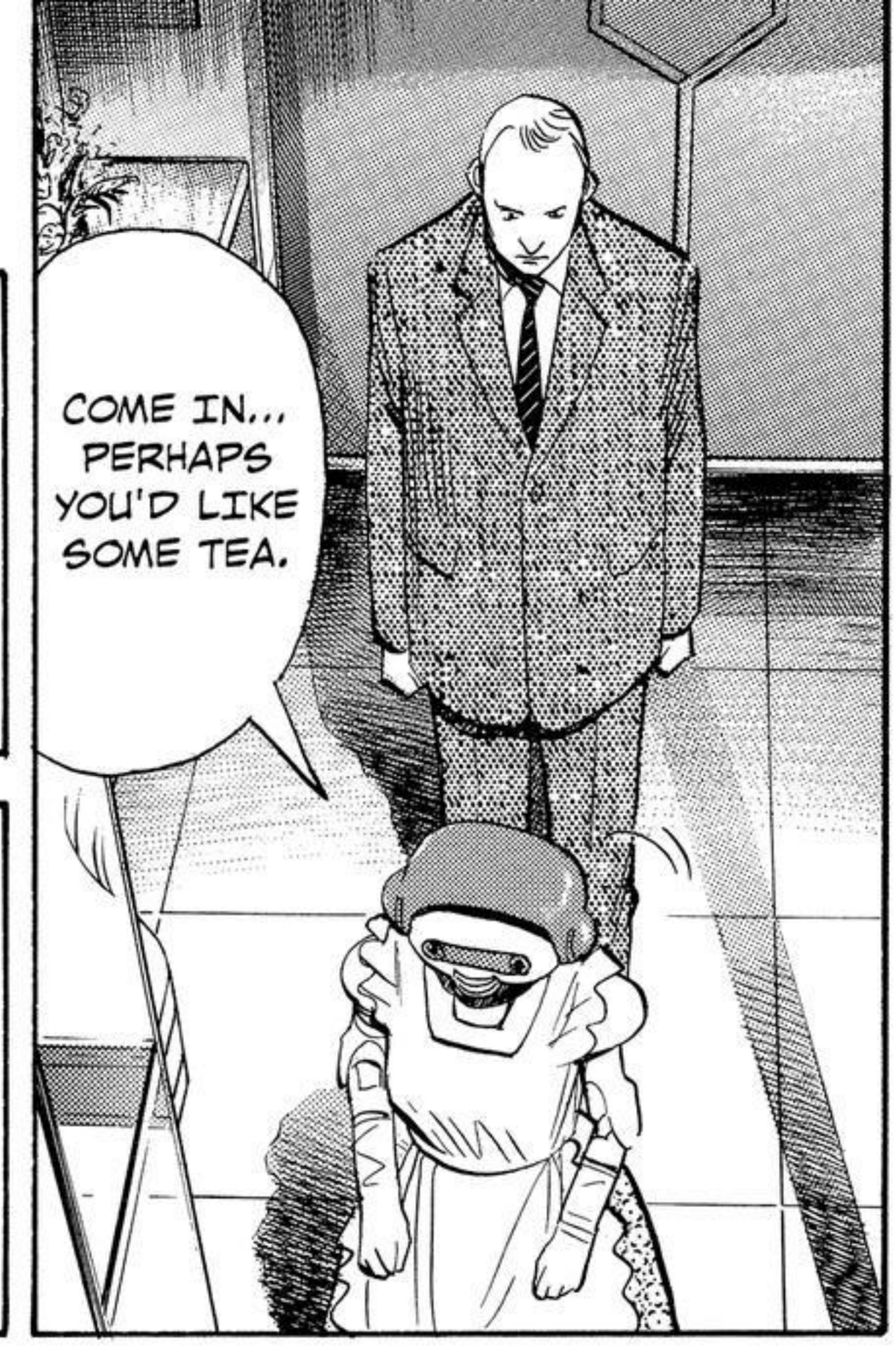

YOU'RE ROBBY'S WIFE, AREN'T YOU?



I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS...

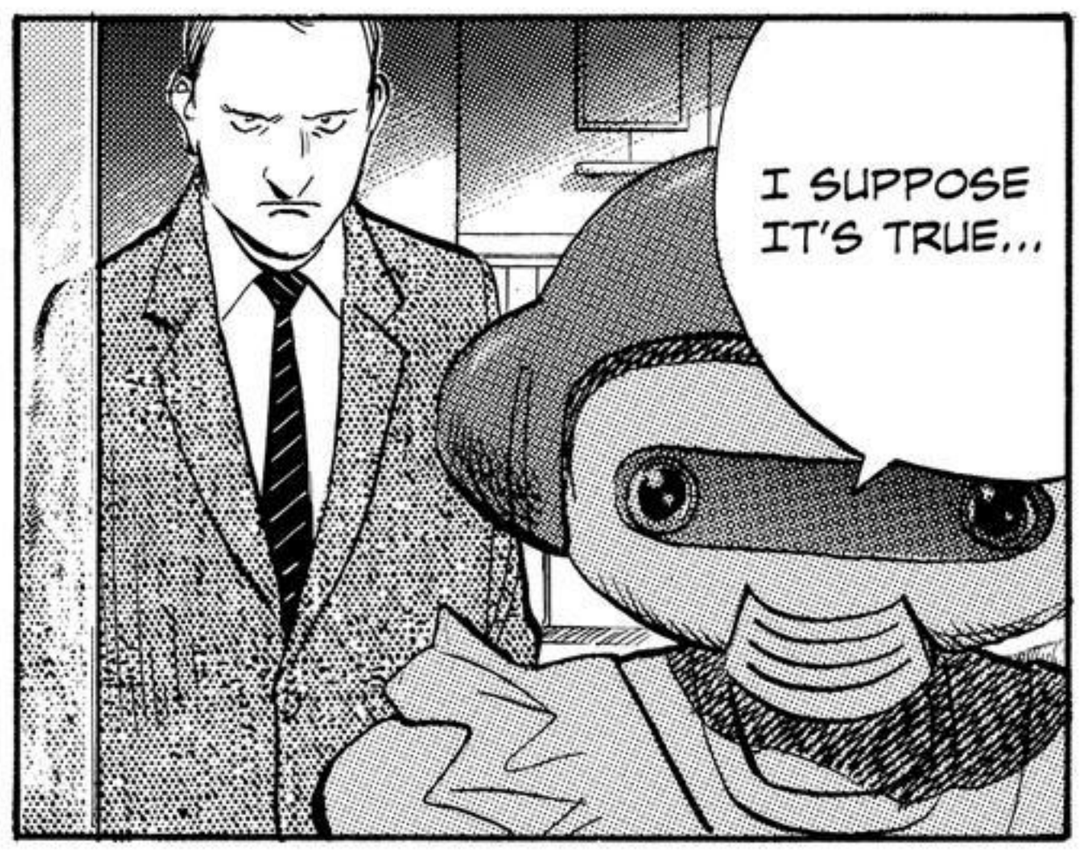



WHY WE ROBOTS NEED TO DRINK TEA, I'LL NEVER KNOW... BUT WE DO HAVE TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES, DON'T WE...


COME IN... PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE SOME TEA.

...REFINE OUR BEHAVIOR AND BECOME MORE HUMAN-LIKE...
CLATTER CHAK
BY LIVING LIKE HUMANS, THEY SAY WE CAN...

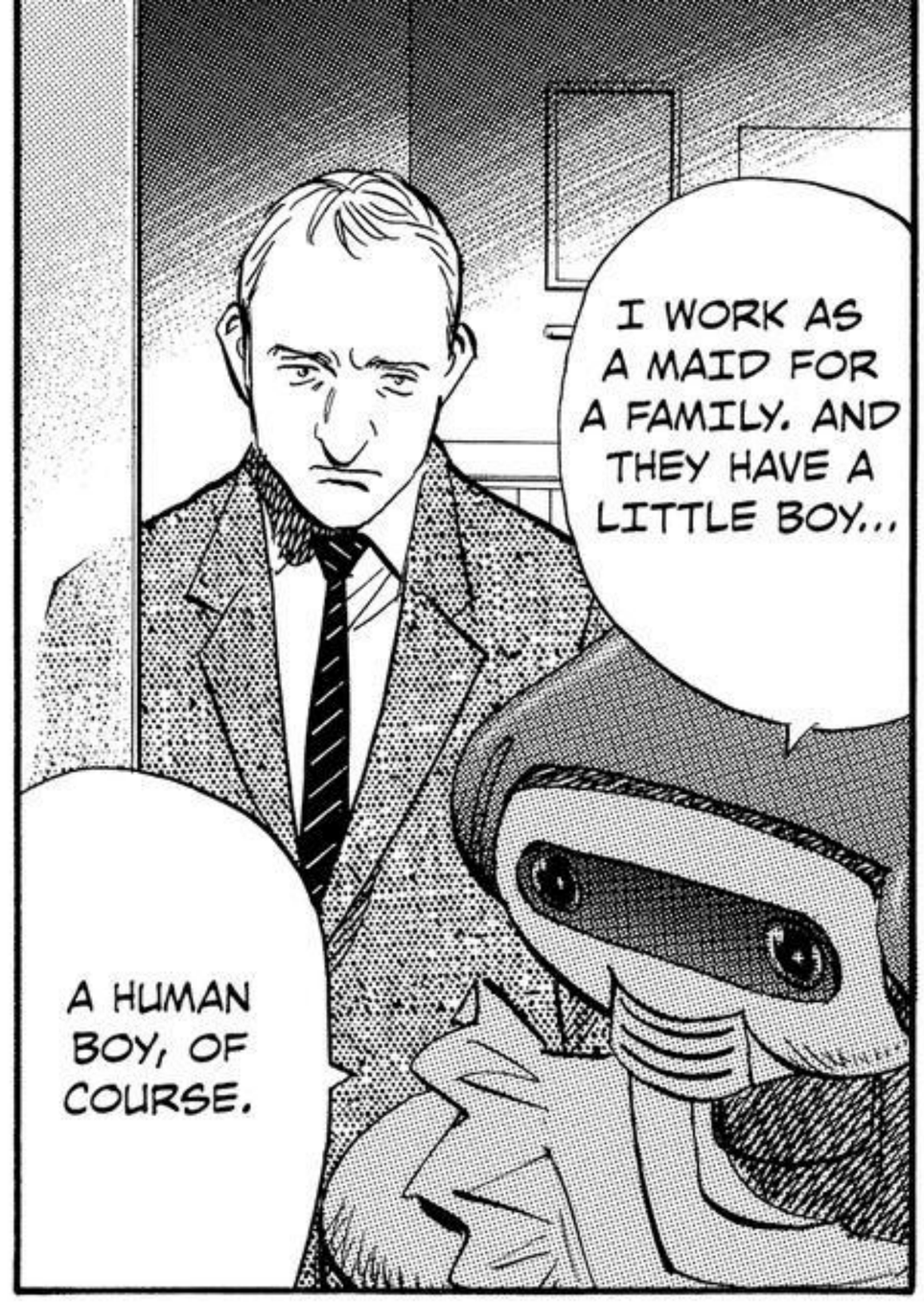
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GRASP THE FASCINATION WITH TEA-DRINKING...


I SUPPOSE IT'S TRUE...

I'M SORRY, MA'AM...

I GUESS THAT'S BEYOND AN OUTDATED MODEL LIKE ME...

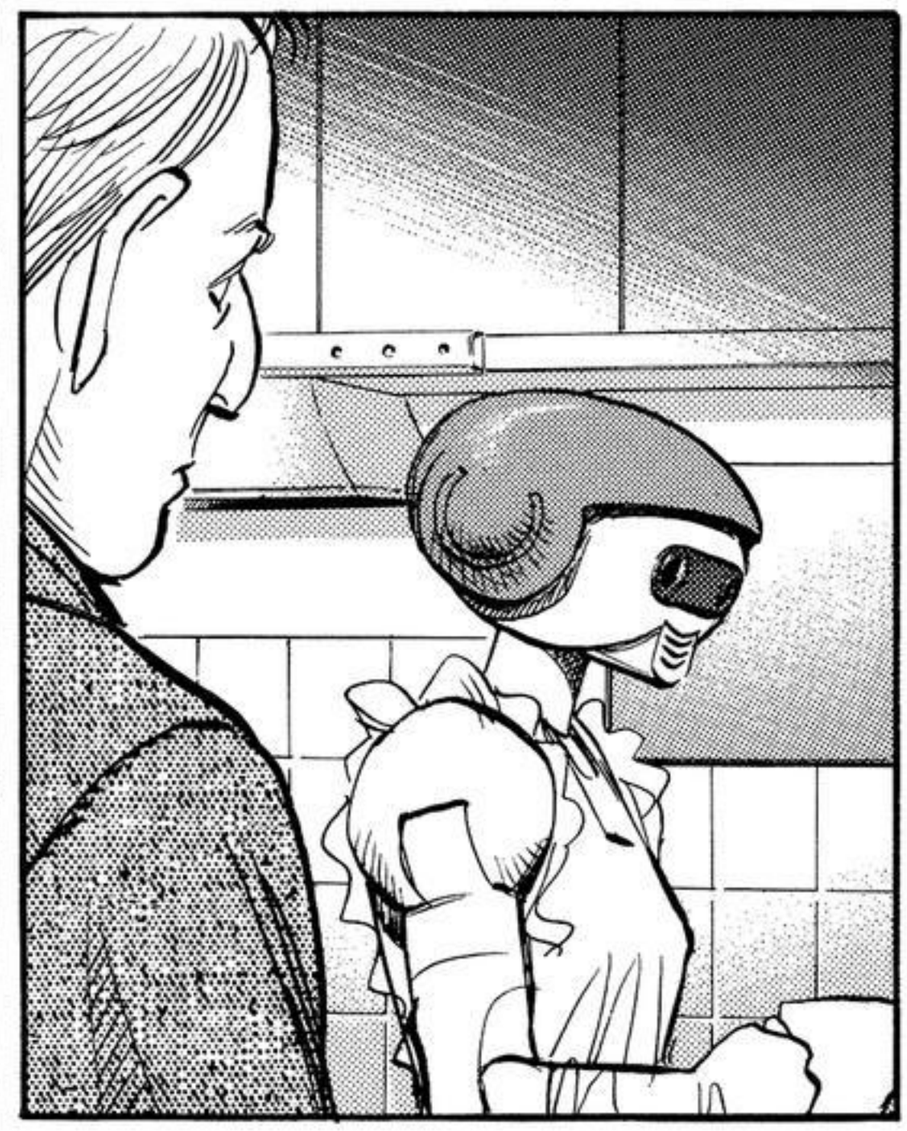
THE BOY AND THE DOG WERE SO FOND OF EACH OTHER.
BEFORE THE BOY WAS BORN, THE FAMILY ADOPTED A PET DOG...

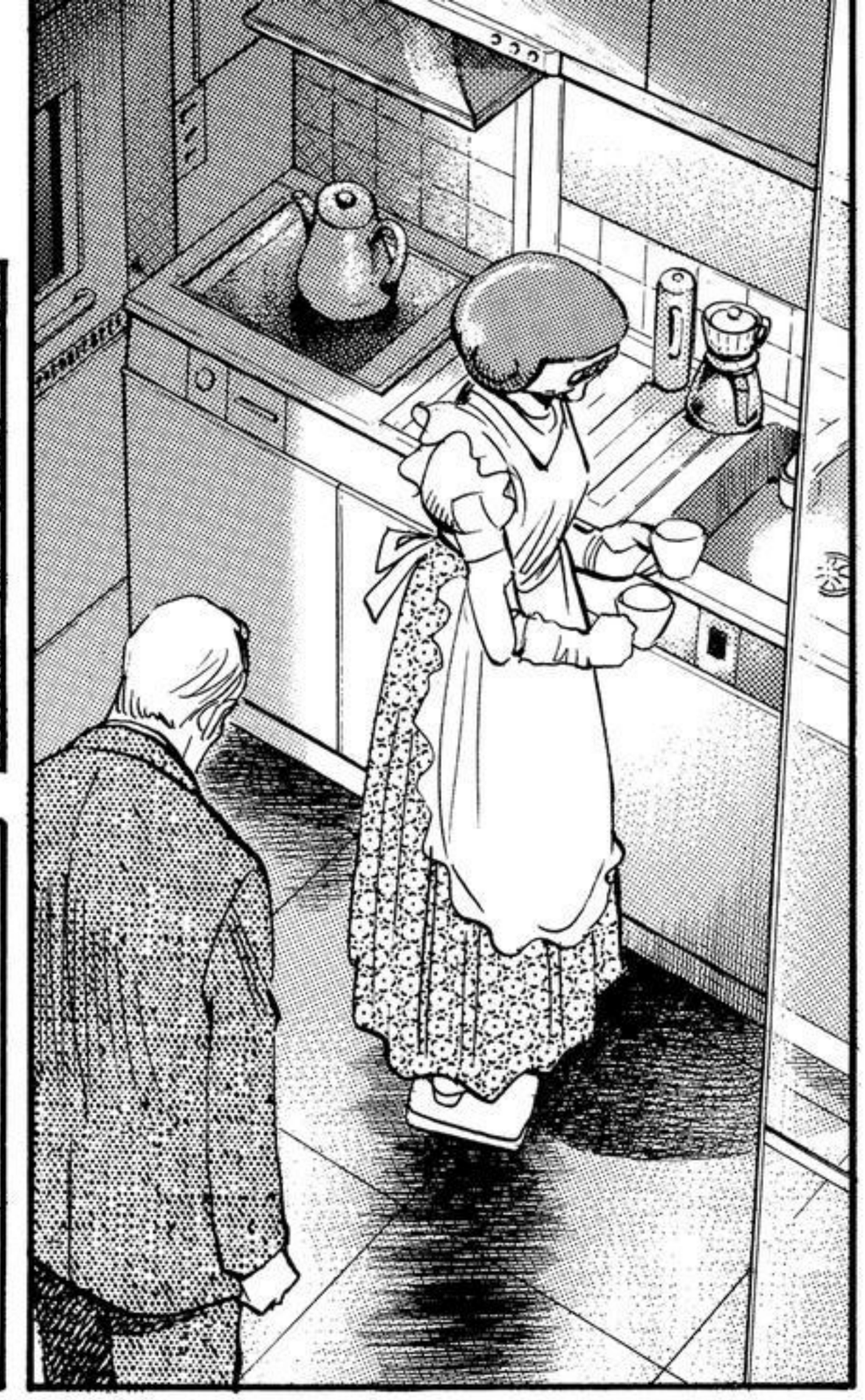

I WORK AS A MAID FOR A FAMILY. AND THEY HAVE A LITTLE BOY...
A HUMAN BOY, OF COURSE.

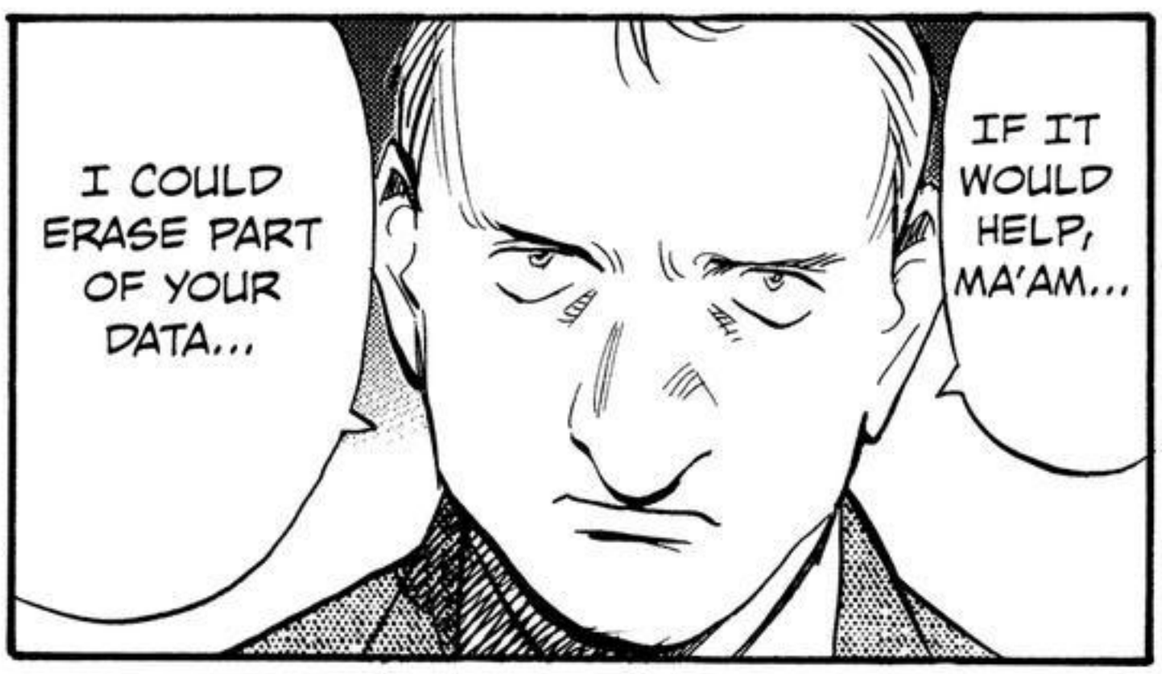
THE LITTLE BOY CRIED AND CRIED FOR DAYS.
I TRIED MY BEST TO COMFORT HIM...

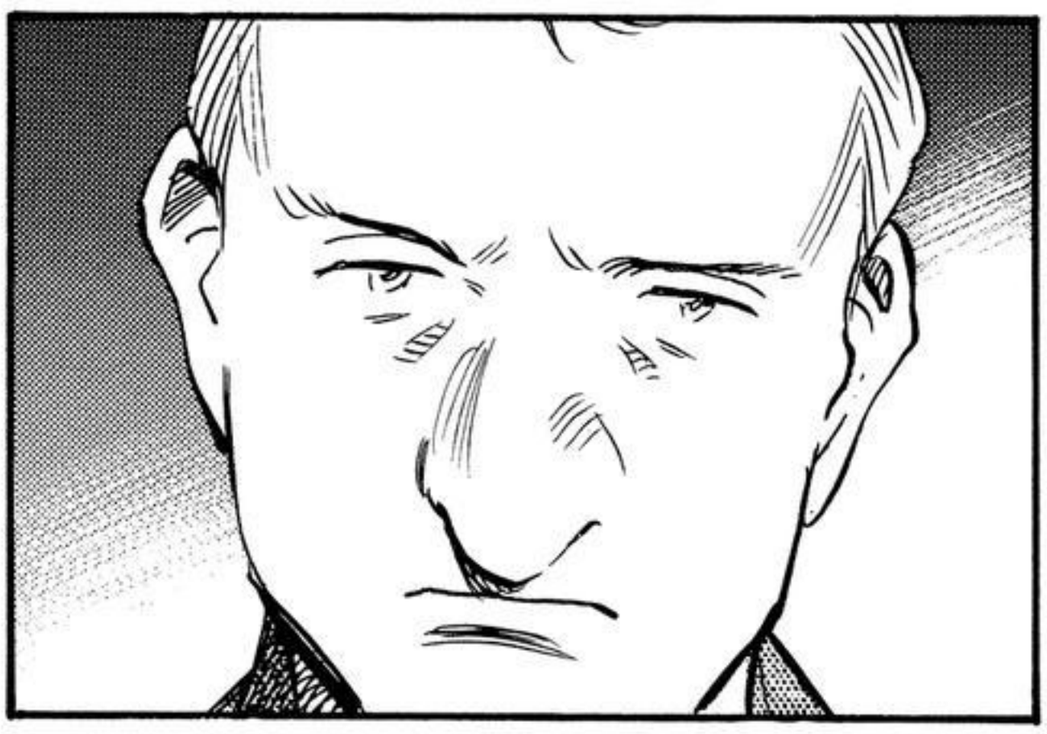
BUT THEN THE DOG DIED.

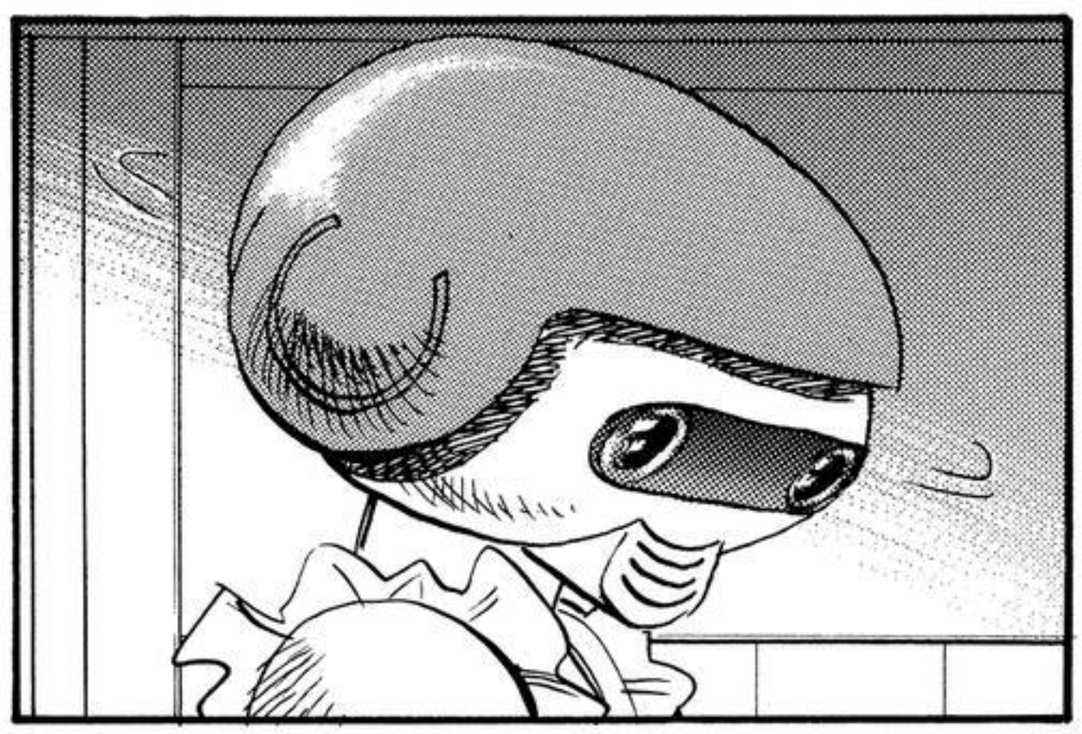
BUT ONLY NOW... DO I UNDER-STAND...
...HOW HE MUST HAVE FELT...



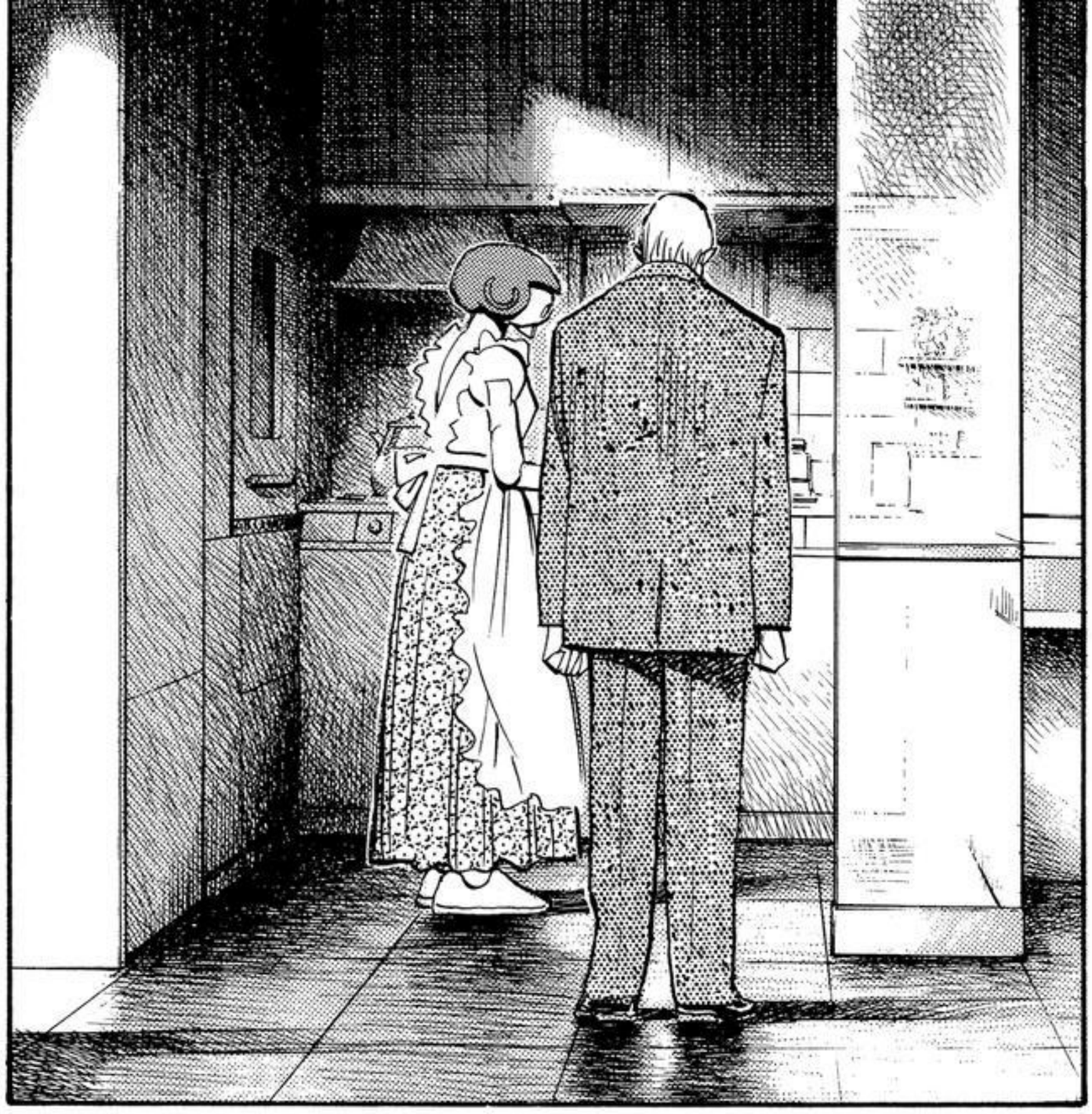


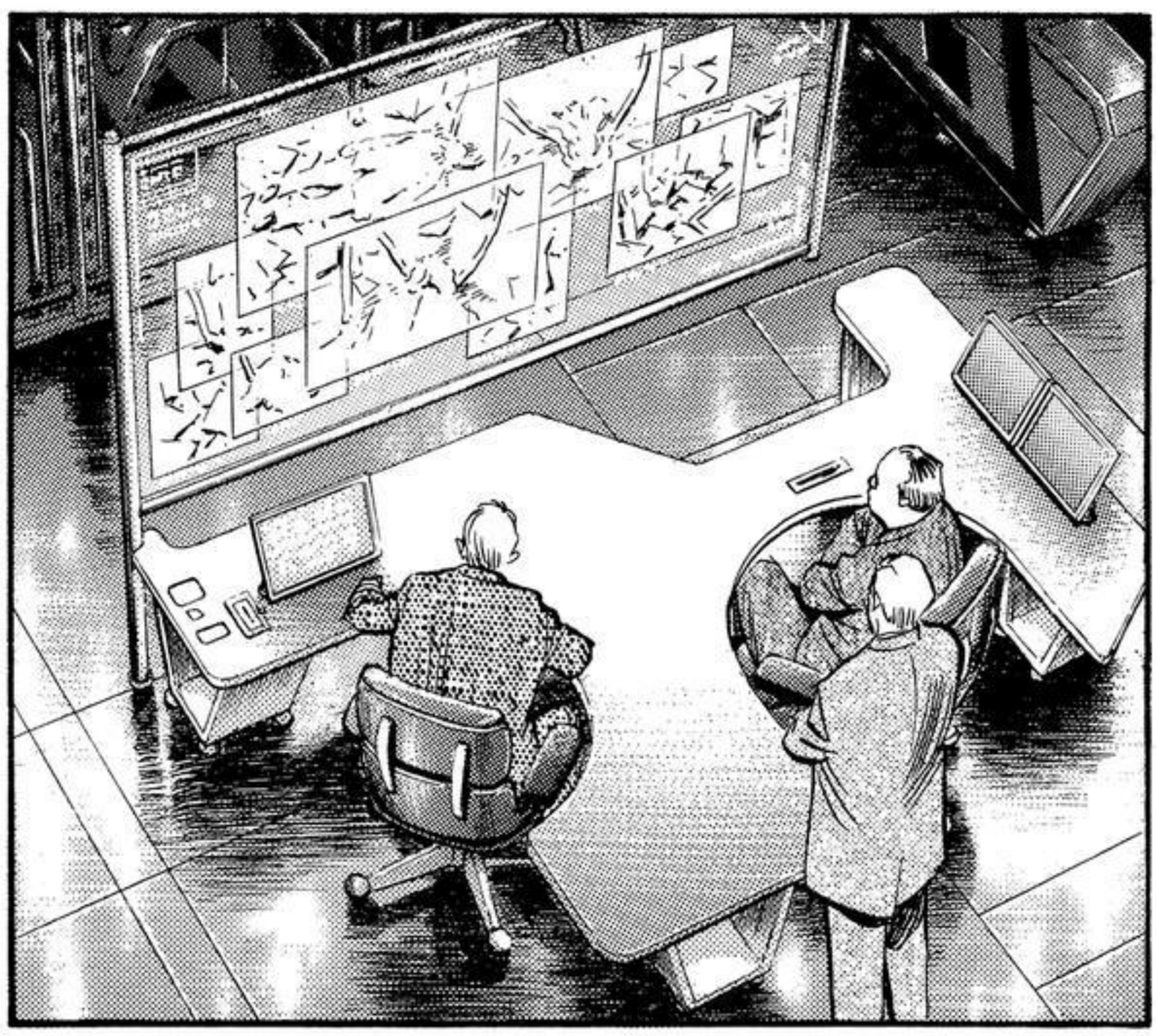

I COULD ERASE PART OF YOUR DATA...
IF IT WOULD HELP, MA'AM...





I WANT TO *KEEP* MY MEMORIES OF HIM...
PLEASE DON'T...



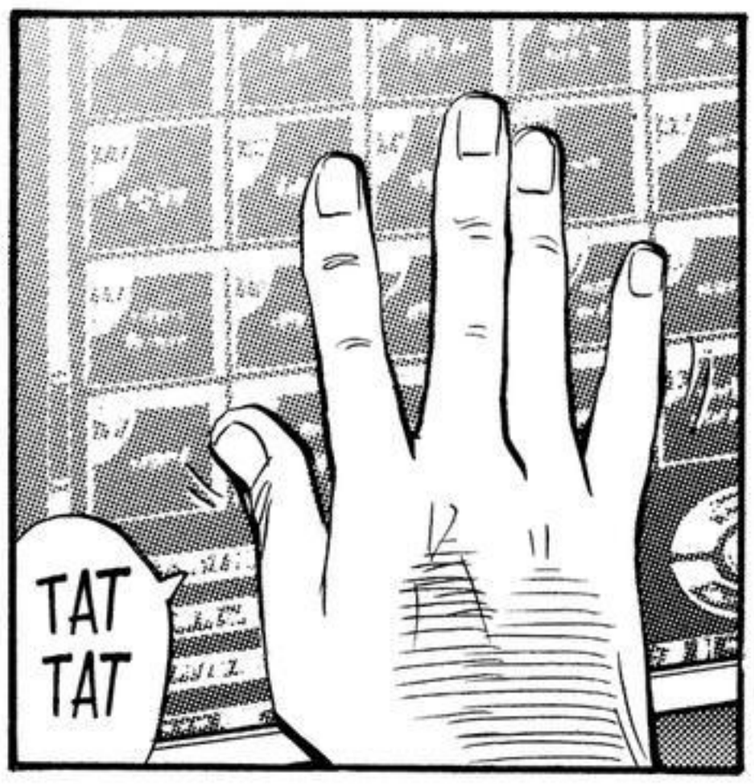


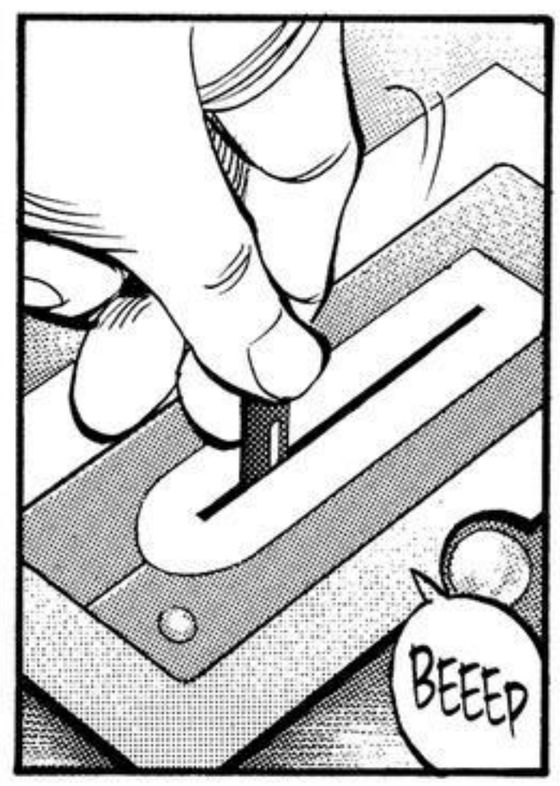
EUROPOL,
GERMAN DIVISION

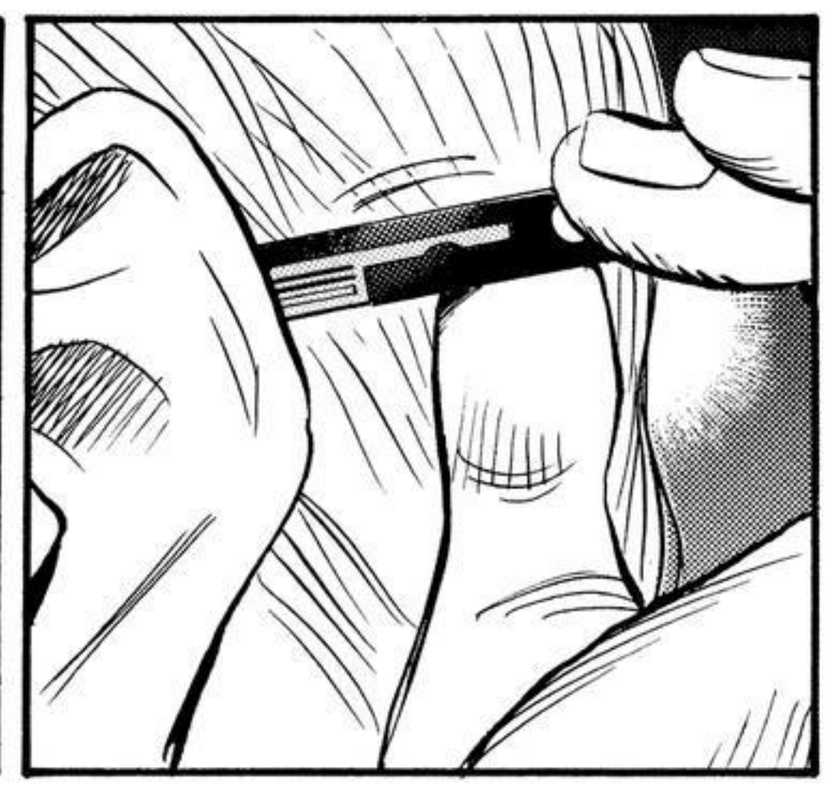
THAT WAS THE SCENE OF BERNARD LANKE'S MURDER...
I DON'T KNOW...

NOW LOOK AT THIS ...

WHAT'S WITH THOSE HORNS?


TAT TAT


BEEEP



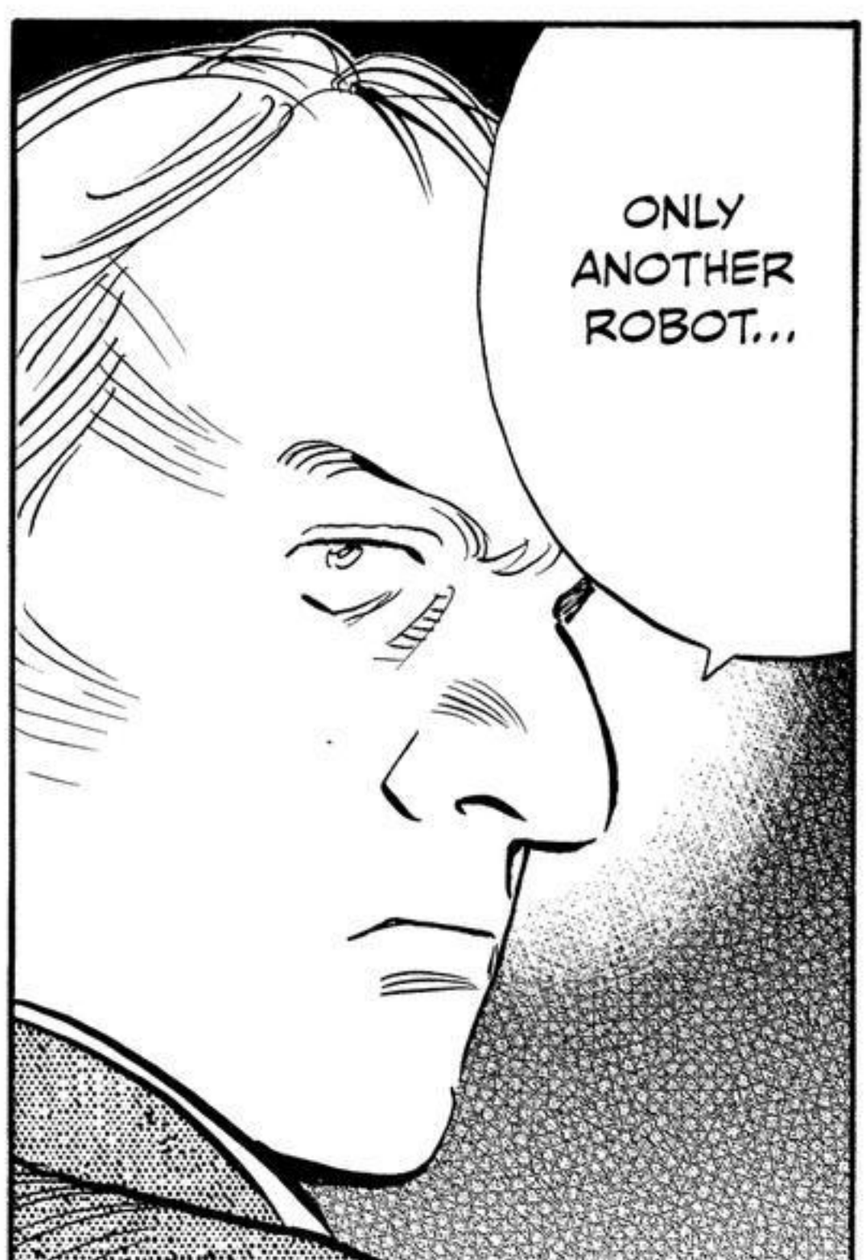
WHAT'S THAT...?

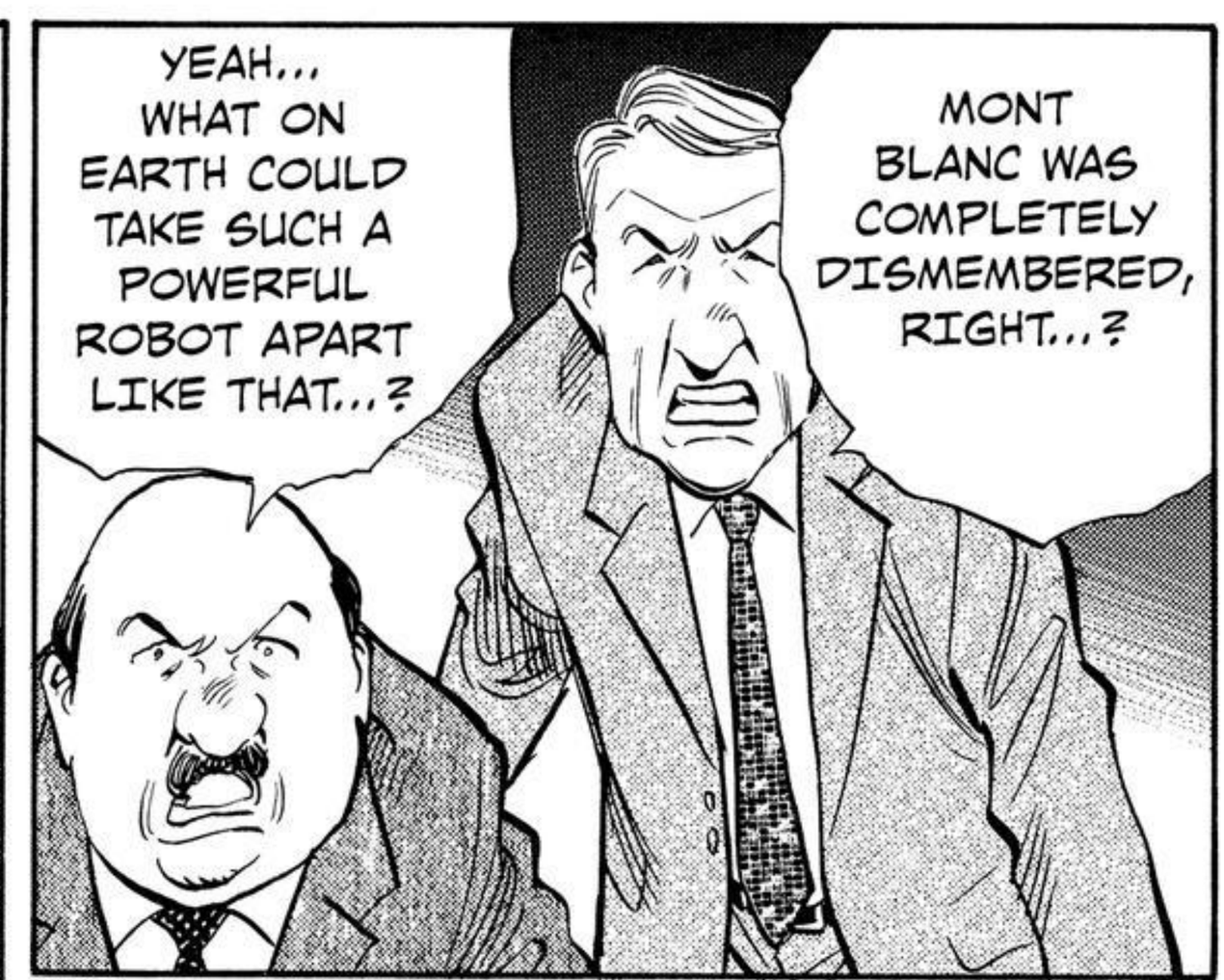
THIS IS WHERE *MONT BLANC*-- THE ROBOT WHO WORKED FOR THE SWISS FORESTRY SERVICE-- WAS DESTROYED...

VWP

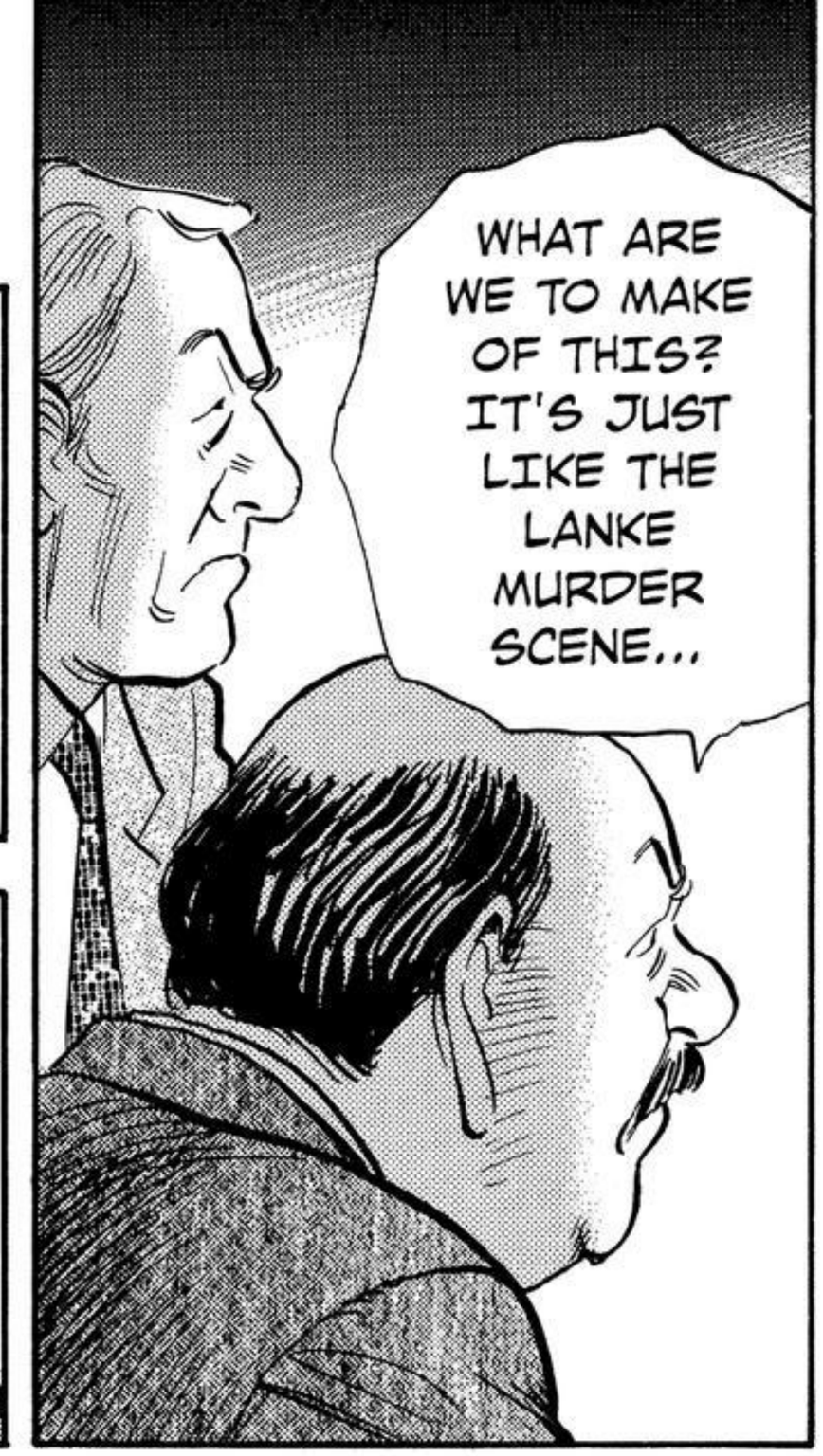
HORNS ...?!

THIS IS HOW WE FOUND MONT BLANC'S HEAD...


ONLY ANOTHER ROBOT...

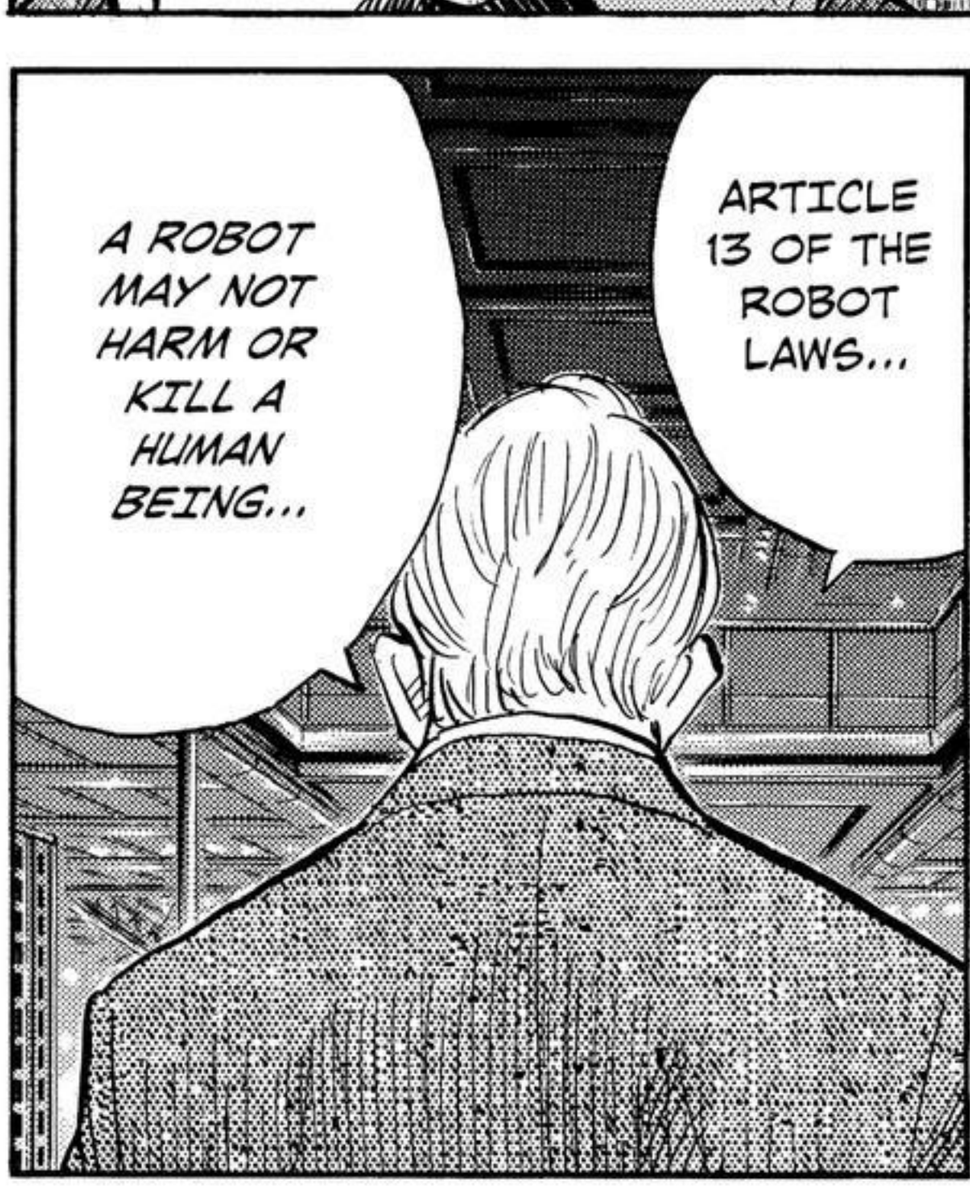

YEAH... WHAT ON EARTH COULD TAKE SUCH A POWERFUL ROBOT APART LIKE THAT...?
MONT BLANC WAS COMPLETELY DISMEMBERED, RIGHT...?

...IN LANKE'S ROOM AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER...
AND THERE'S NO EVIDENCE OF ANY OTHER HUMAN PRESENCE ...


WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF THIS? IT'S JUST LIKE THE LANKE MURDER SCENE...

BUT LANKE WAS *HUMAN*!!
NO EVIDENCE OF A HUMAN ASSAILANT?

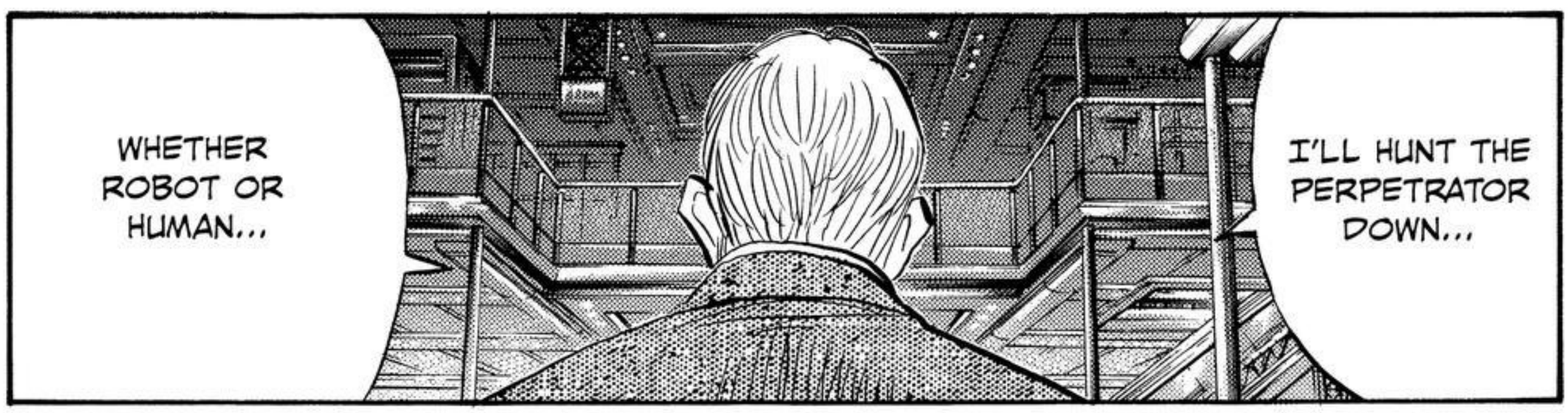
ARE YOU SAYING BOTH OF THESE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED BY THE SAME PERSON... OR THING?!
IMPOS-SIBLE!


A ROBOT MAY NOT HARM OR KILL A HUMAN BEING...
ARTICLE 13 OF THE ROBOT LAWS...

IF THAT'S TRUE, GESICHT, WE'VE GOT A MAJOR CASE ON OUR HANDS!

...IT'LL BE JUST AS BIG AS EIGHT YEARS AGO!
IF THIS IS A CASE OF ANOTHER HUMAN-KILLING ROBOT...

...SINCE SOME-THING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED.
IT'S BEEN YEARS ...


WHETHER ROBOT OR HUMAN...
I'LL HUNT THE PERPETRATOR DOWN...

HE'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN POSSESSED BY THE *DEVIL*...

Act 2 GESICHT

MONT BLANC WAS A TRUE HERO...

IN FACT, THE PRESENT PEACE IN ASIA WOULD NEVER HAVE COME ABOUT WITHOUT THE HELP OF MONT BLANC.

...HE ALSO MANAGED TO BLOODLESSLY APPREHEND THE LAST TERRORIST INFILTRATORS...

...WHO HELPED RESTORE STABILITY IN THE LONG-TROUBLED PERSIAN KINGDOM...

NOT ONLY WAS HE A MEMBER OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCES DURING THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR...

BUT EVEN MORE REMARKABLE, HE WAS ALSO AN ACCOM-PLISHED POET...

AND CONVERSED WITH THE TREES OF THE FORESTS...

HE SANG WITH THE BIRDS...

HE WAS THE PRIDE OF **SWITZER-LAND...** NO... THE ENTIRE **HUMAN RACE...**

MONT BLANC WAS A TRUE GUARDIAN OF NATURE AND THE MOUNTAINS ...

BZZAP!

MONT BLANC... MAY HE REMAIN FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS...

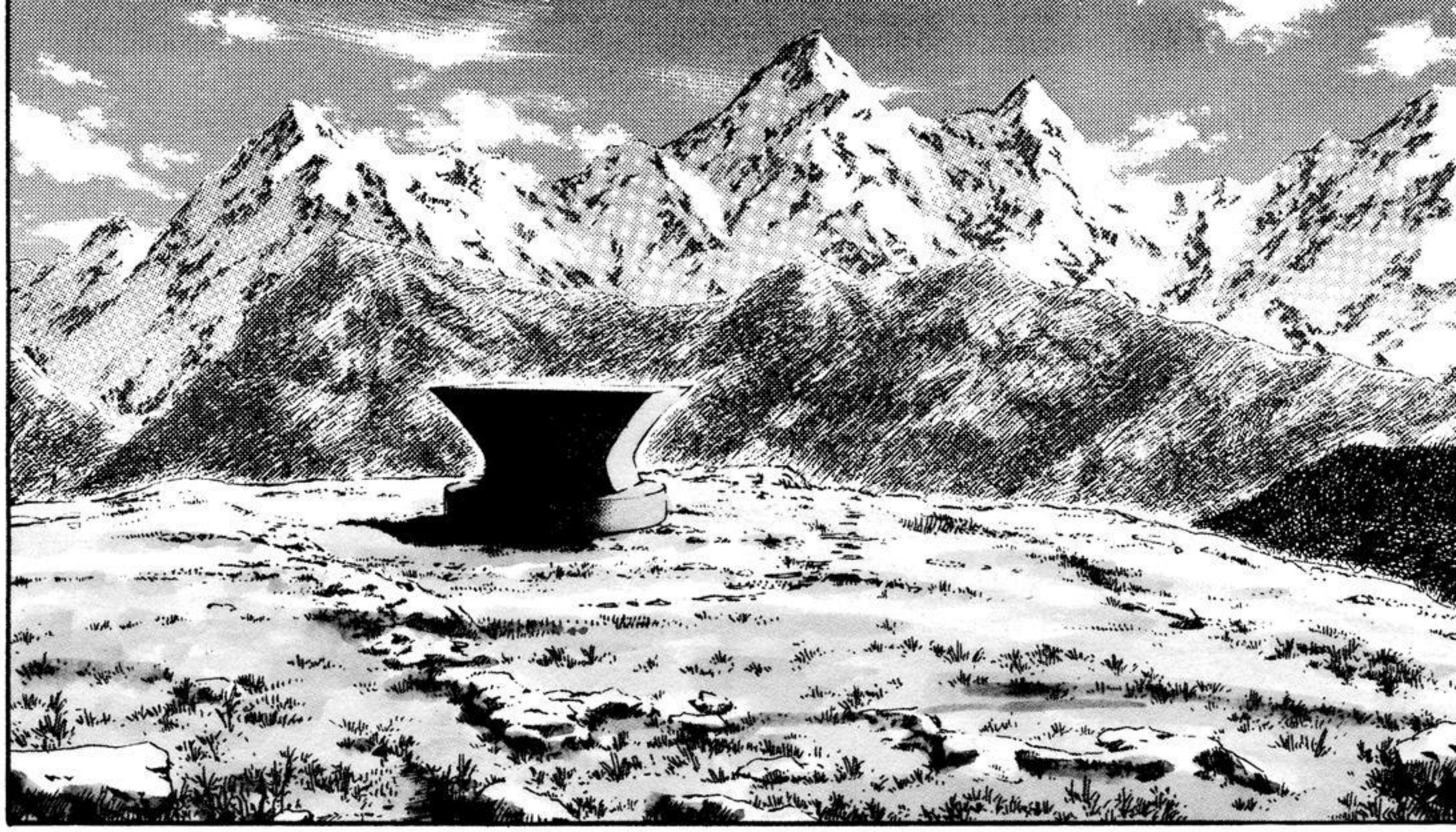
YOU CAN ALL GO BACK TO WORK NOW...

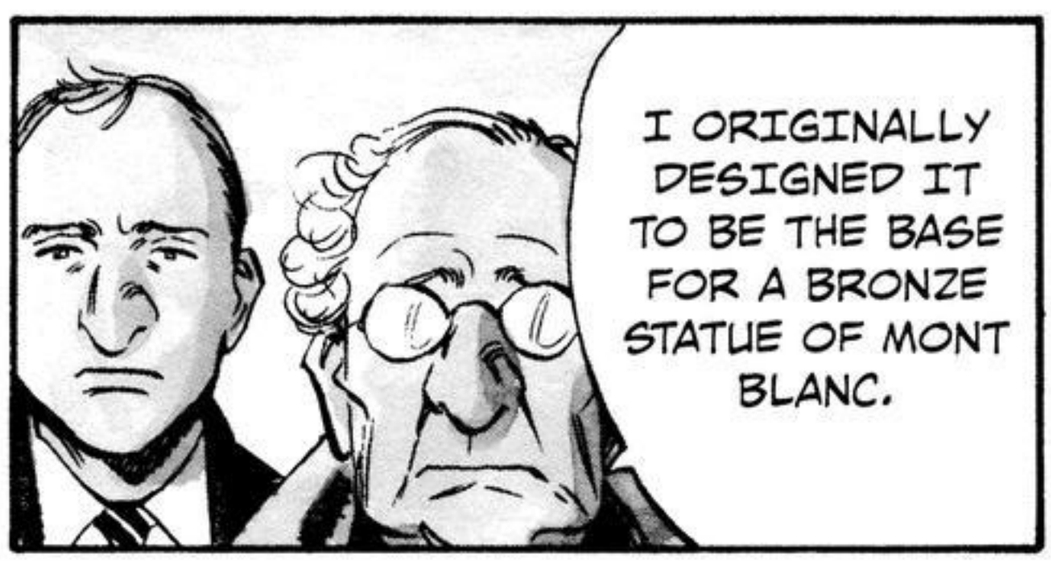
THAT'S IT FOR THE MAX VISION TEST TODAY, GUYS...

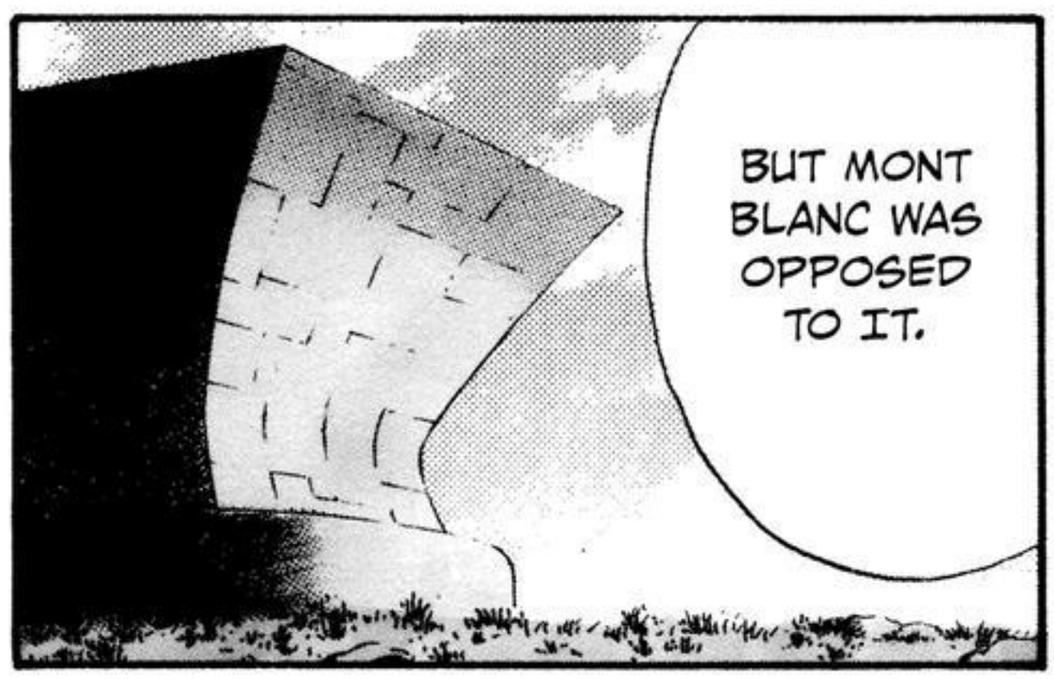
...PROBABLY SEVERAL *HUNDRED THOUSAND*-- ALL MOURNING THE DEATH OF MONT BLANC...

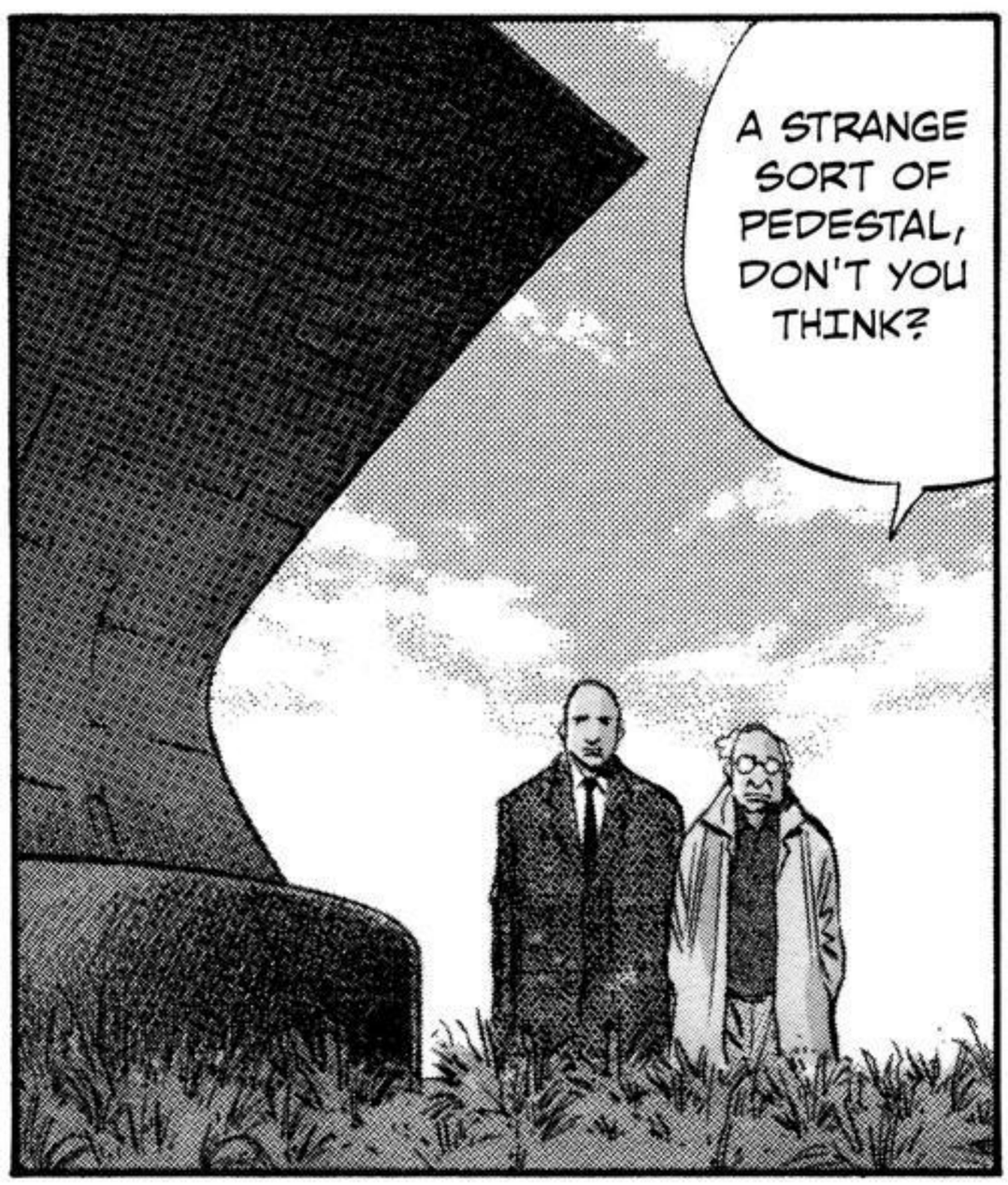
Act 2

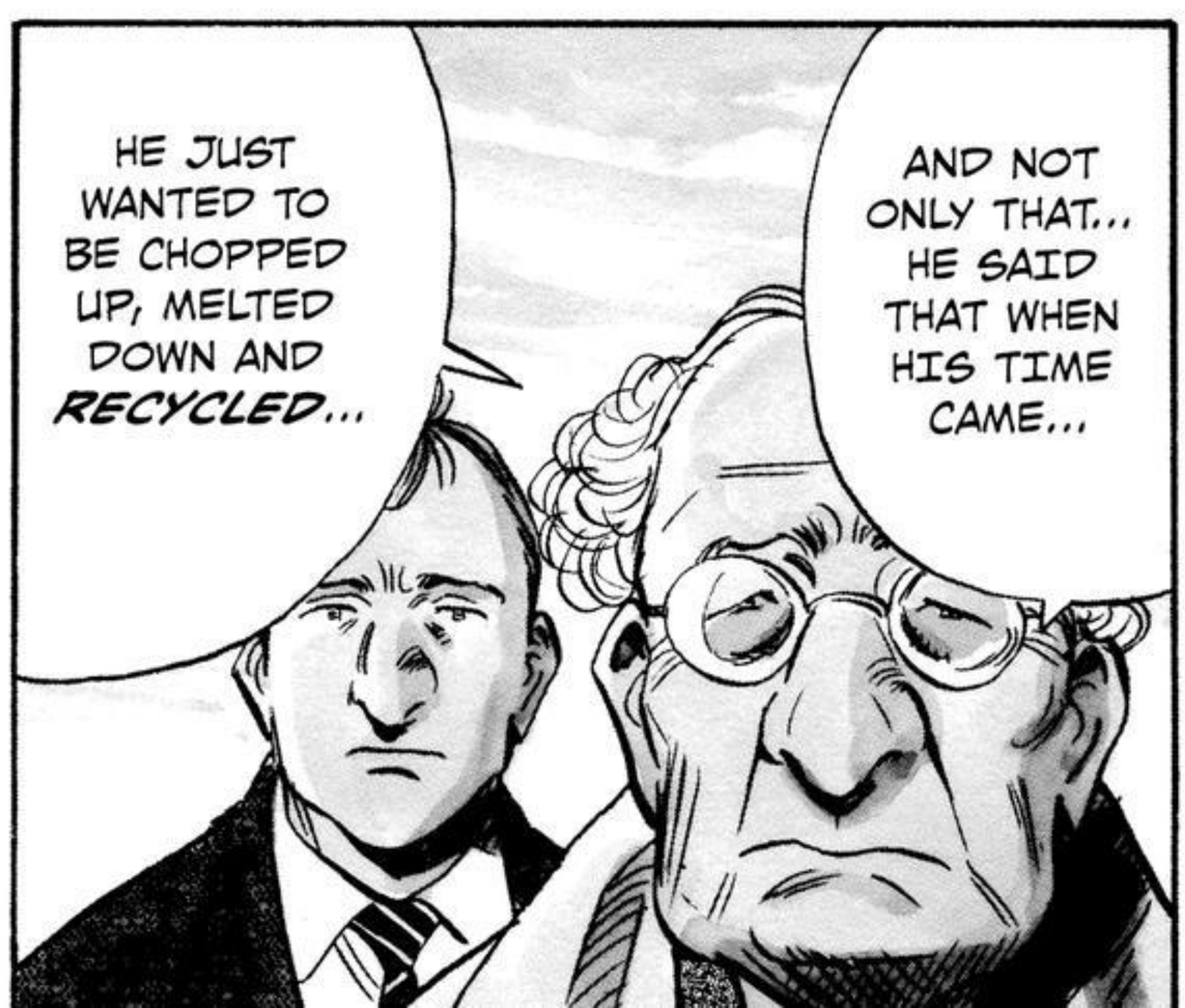
GESICHT

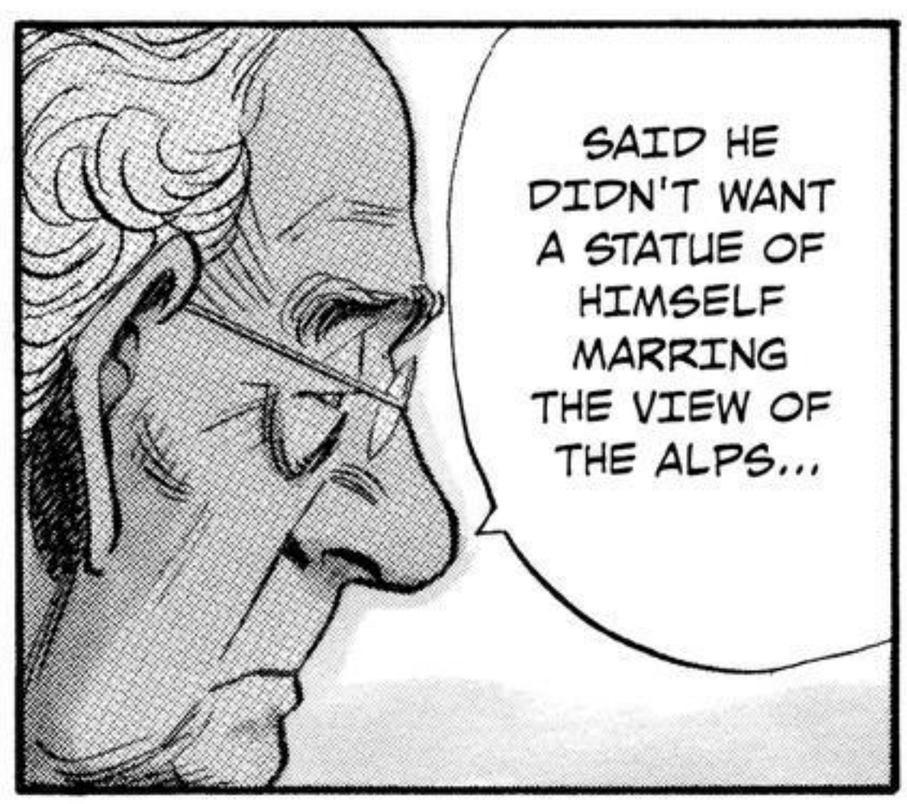



I ORIGINALLY DESIGNED IT TO BE THE BASE FOR A BRONZE STATUE OF MONT BLANC.


BUT MONT BLANC WAS OPPOSED TO IT.


A STRANGE SORT OF PEDESTAL, DON'T YOU THINK?

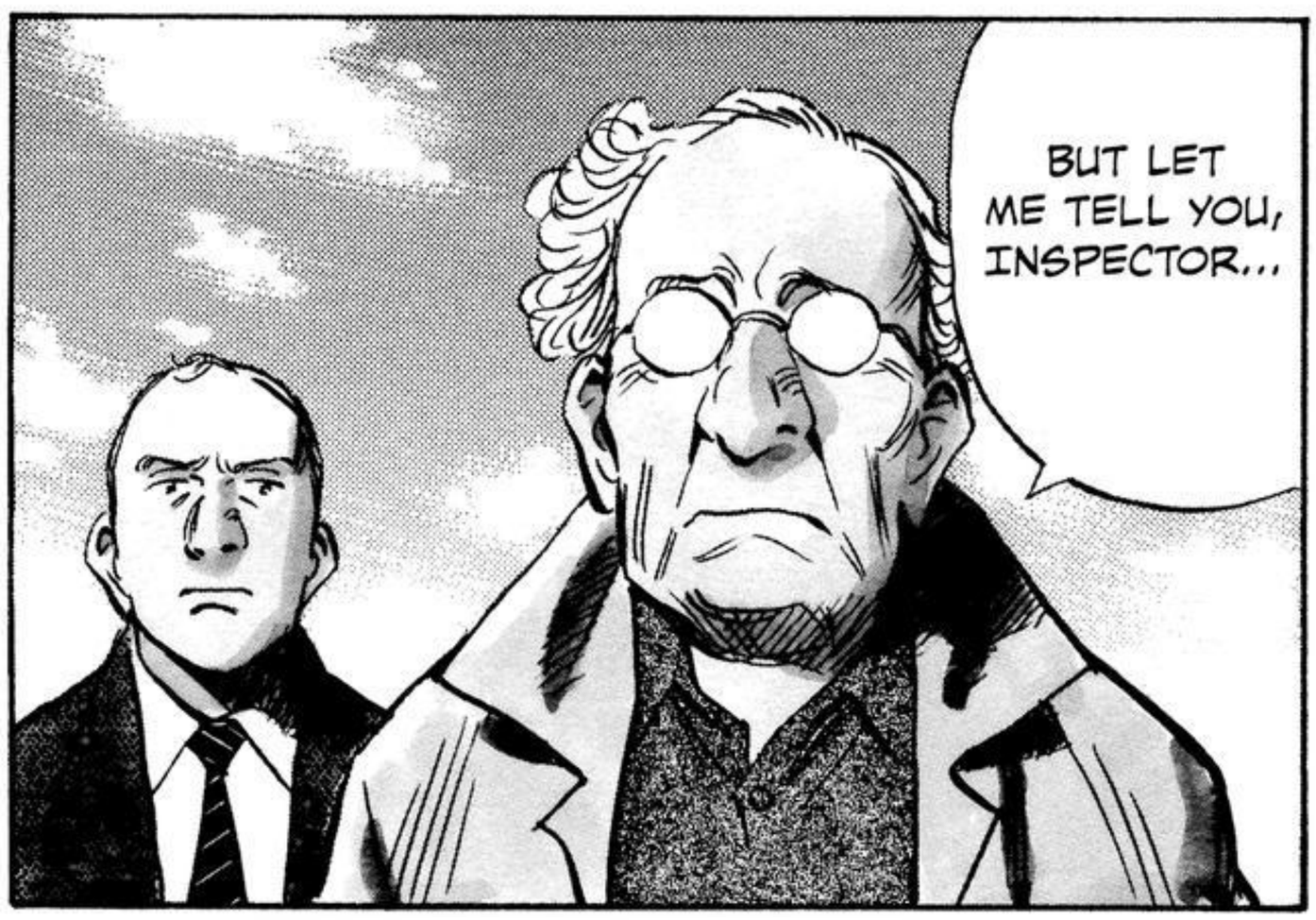

HE JUST WANTED TO BE CHOPPED UP, MELTED DOWN AND *RECYCLED*...
AND NOT ONLY THAT... HE SAID THAT WHEN HIS TIME CAME...


SAID HE DIDN'T WANT A STATUE OF HIMSELF MARRING THE VIEW OF THE ALPS...

PROFESSOR REINHARDT, AT THE SITE WHERE MONTBLANC'S REMAINS WERE FOUND... THERE WERE...

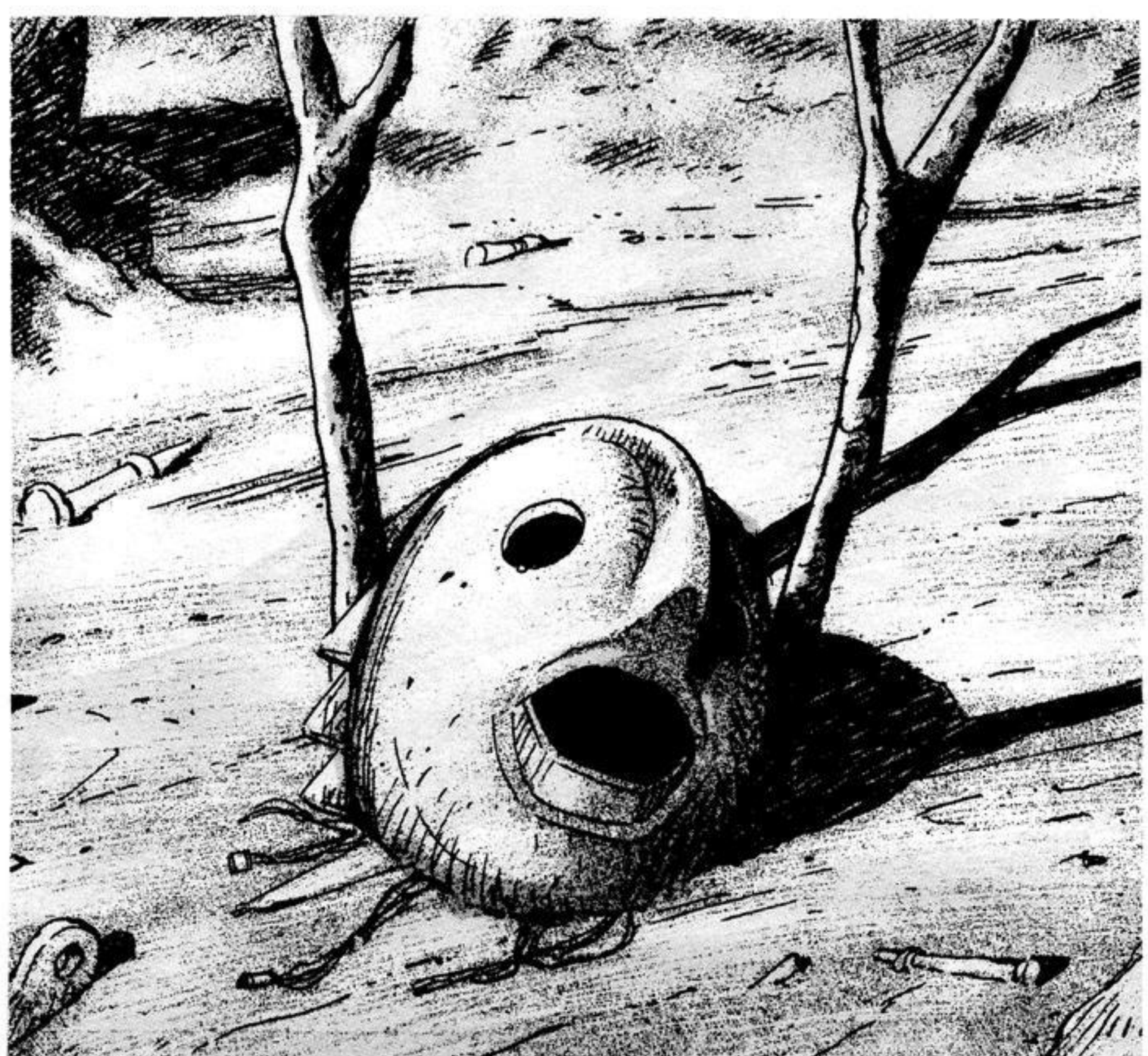
I WAS THERE...

HE WAS STILL SO YOUNG AND STRONG ...
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN SO SOON...


BUT LET ME TELL YOU, INSPECTOR...

WITNESSES SAY A HUGE TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN BEFORE THE FIRE STARTED... I KNOW THERE'S ALSO SPECULATION THAT IT WAS ALL JUST A *NATURAL DISASTER*...

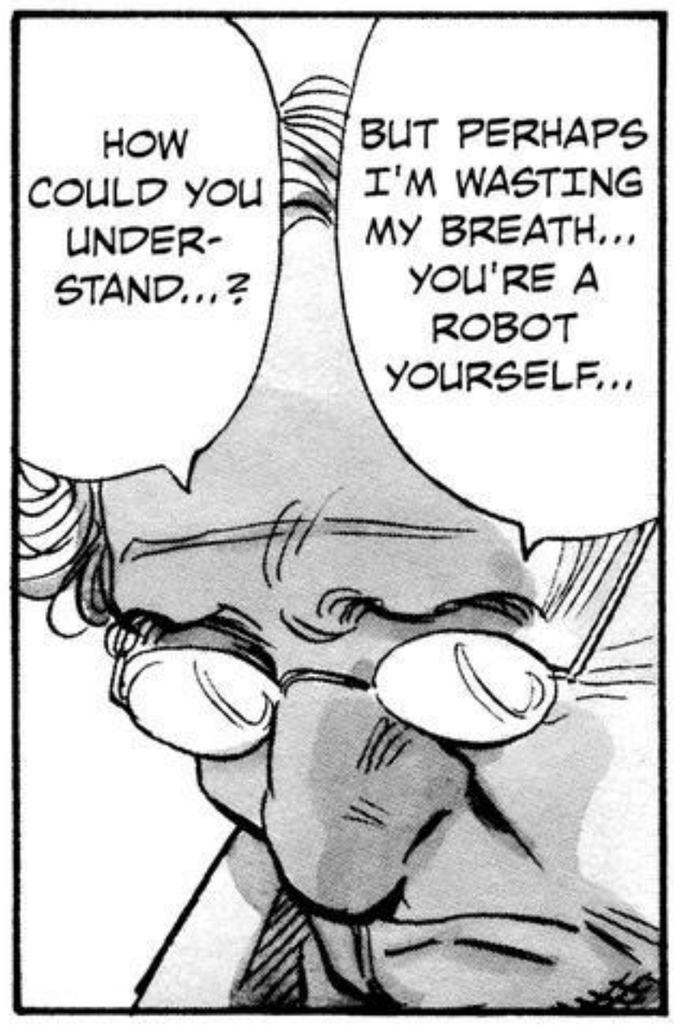
THAT WAS *NO ACCIDENT* ...



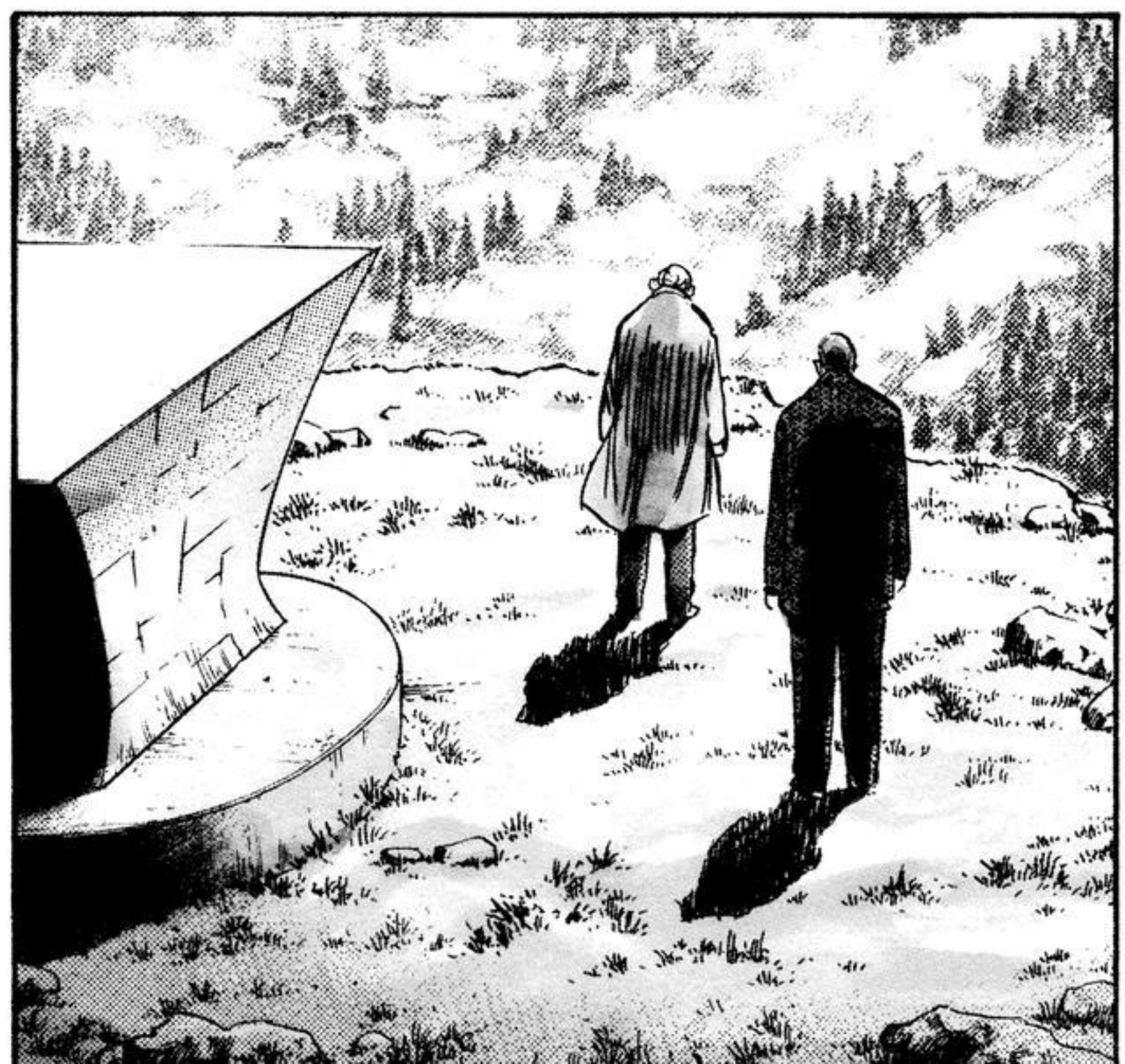
SO I'M BEGGING YOU... PLEASE FIND HIS KILLER...

IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON HIM, I SWEAR I'LL...

MONT BLANC WAS MY SON...


HOW COULD YOU UNDER-STAND...?
BUT PERHAPS I'M WASTING MY BREATH... YOU'RE A ROBOT YOURSELF...

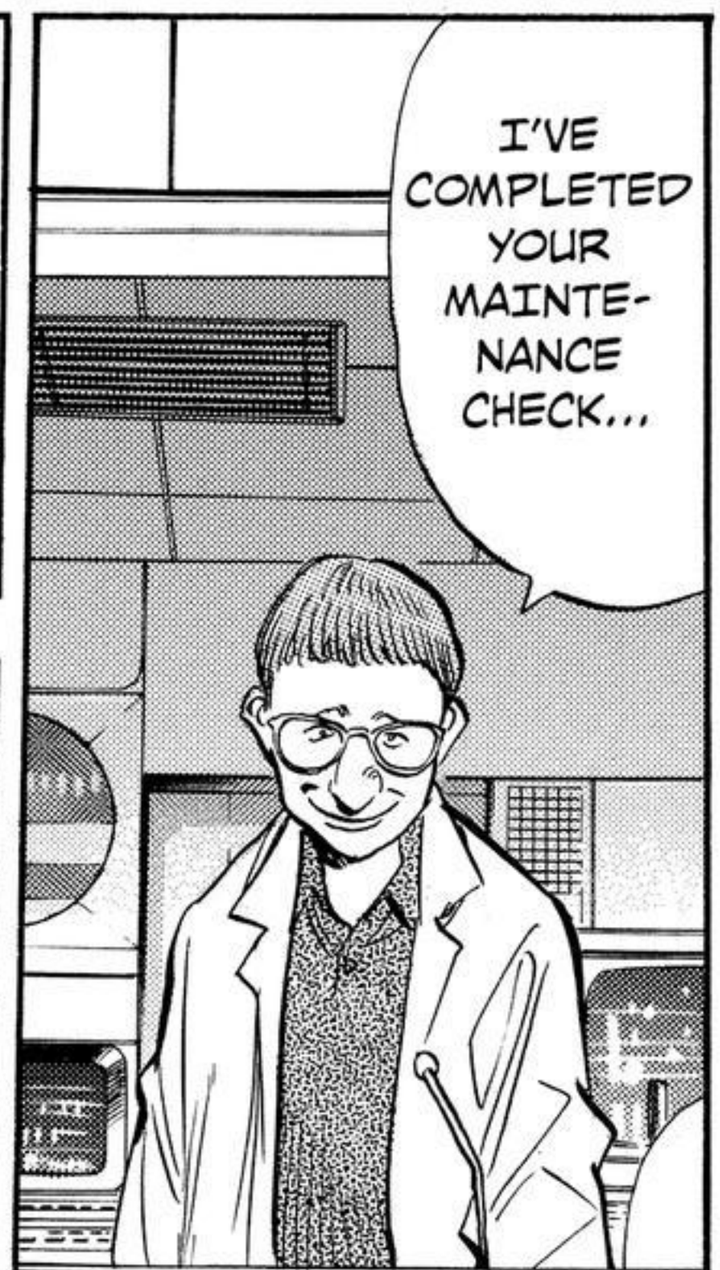
I'LL...

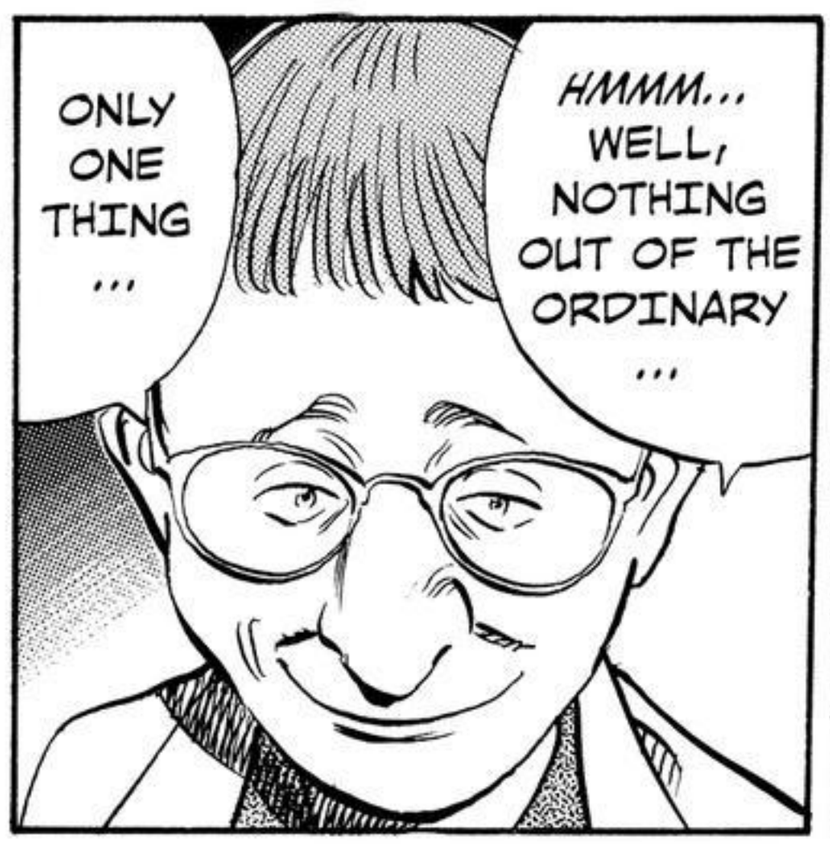


BOOM
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT

DÜSSELDORF,
EURO FEDERATION

YOU AWAKE, GESICHT?





BUT THE MORE HUMAN YOU BECOME, THE MORE STRESSFUL IT'S GOT TO BE, RIGHT?

WELL, MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT ROBOTS DON'T TIRE.

SO YOU SEE SIGNS OF FATIGUE?

YOU WORK SOMETHING TOO HARD, AND ANY MECHANISM WILL WEAR OUT.

TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, EVEN THE HUMAN BODY IS A KIND OF MECHANISM.

THEY SHOWED THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MONT BLANC ON TV. I COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH IT... I WAS IN TEARS.

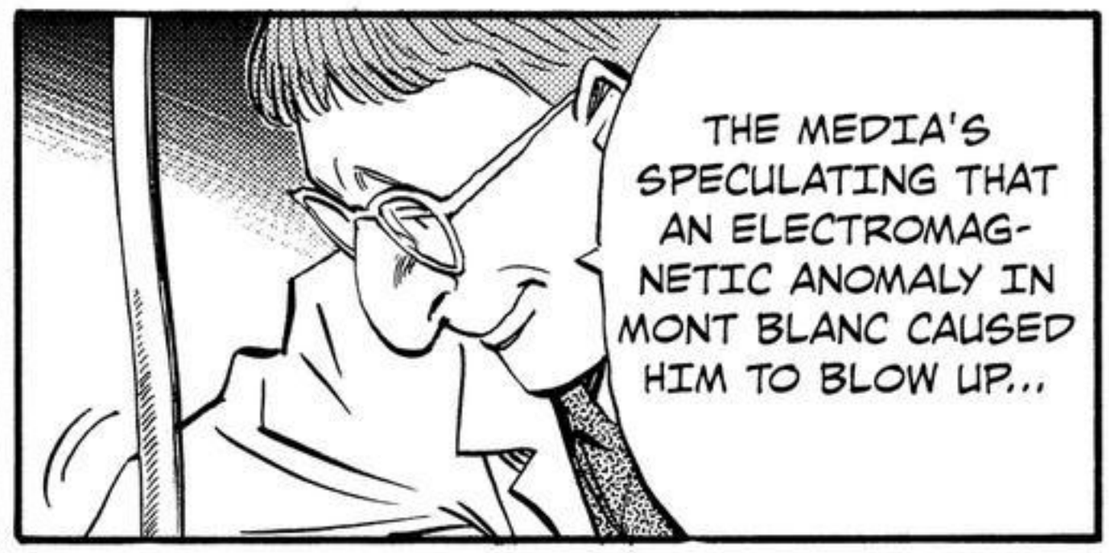
...

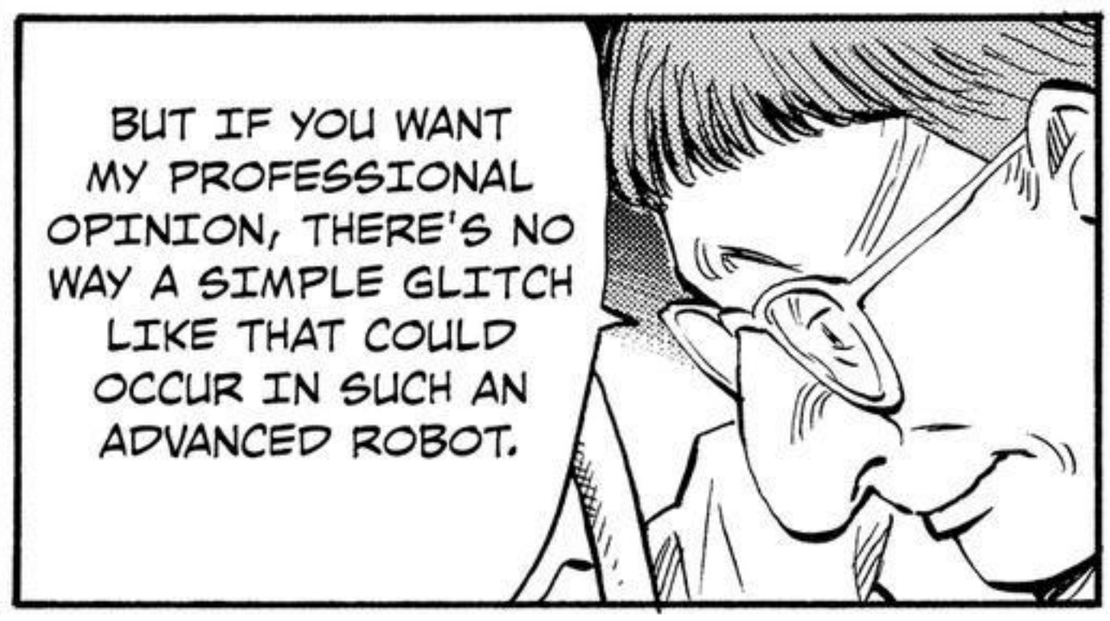
PSHOONK

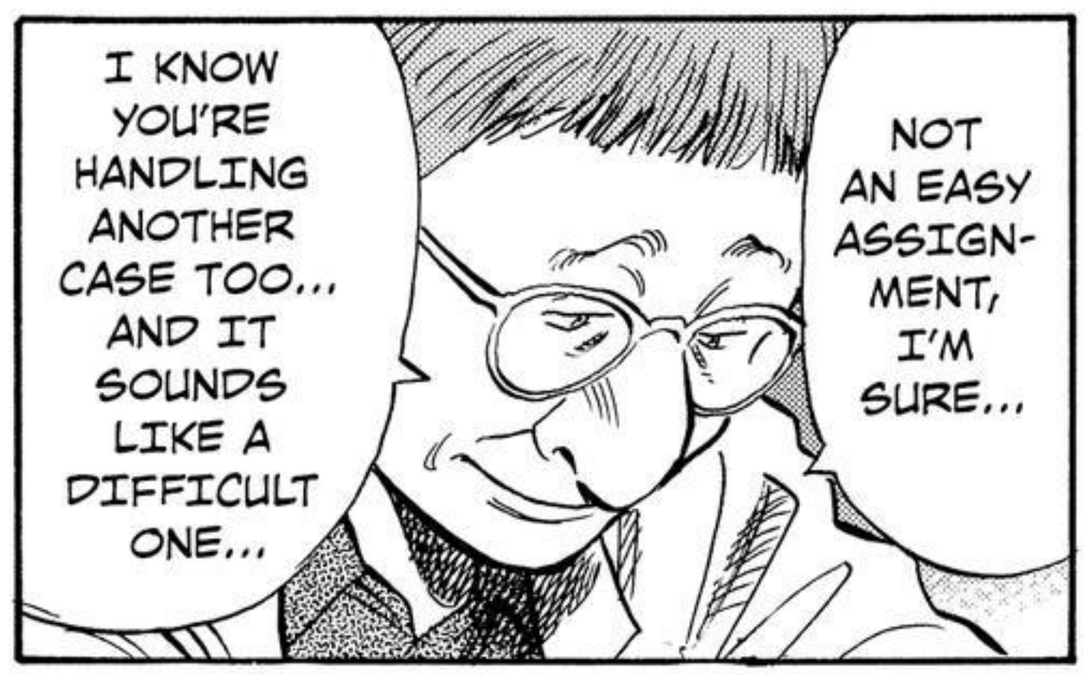
WHIRRRR

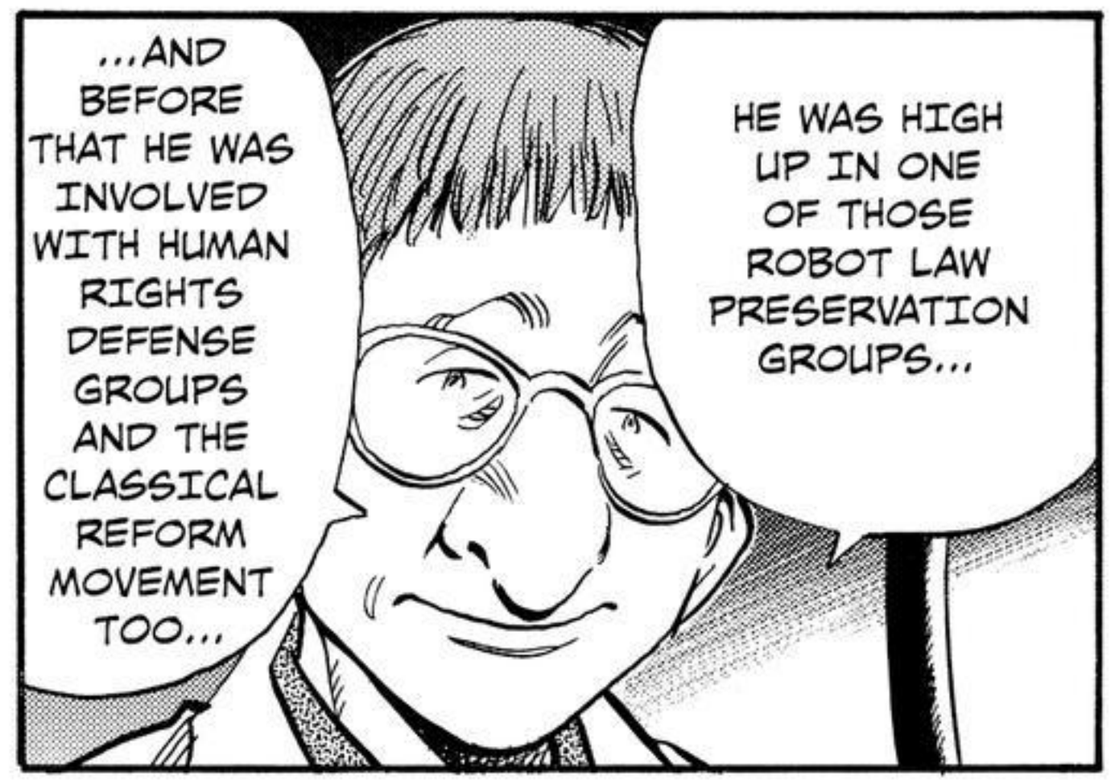
I'D SAY YOU'RE WORKING ON A PRETTY TOUGH CASE THIS TIME...

...WHATEVER KILLED THE WORLD'S MOST BELOVED ROBOT...?
I THINK SOMEONE DESTROYED HIM. SO HOW ABOUT IT, GESICHT? THINK YOU CAN TRACK DOWN...

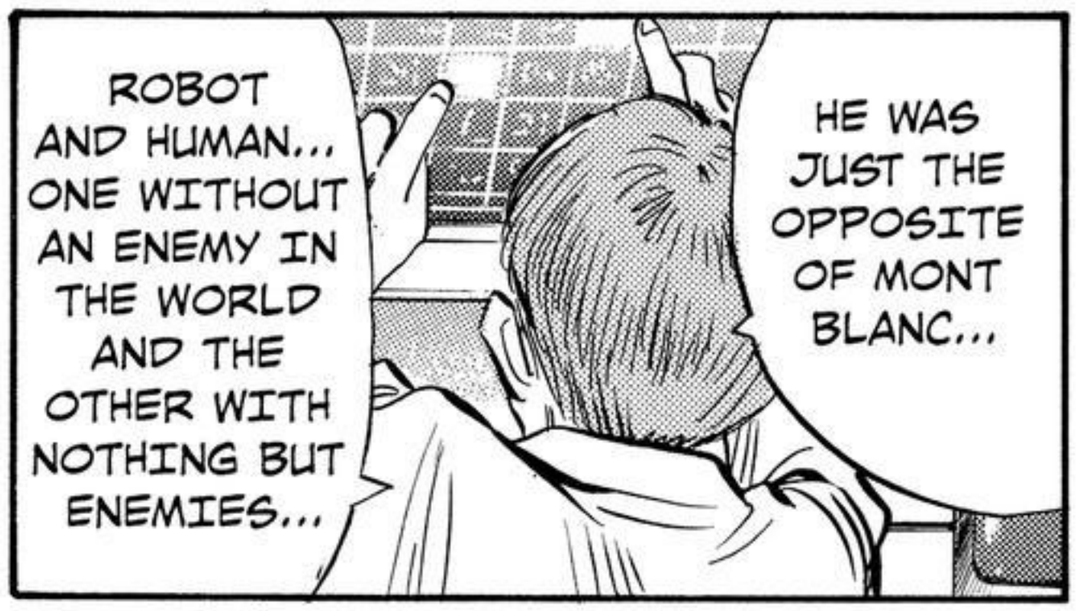

THE MEDIA'S SPECULATING THAT AN ELECTROMAGNETIC ANOMALY IN MONT BLANC CAUSED HIM TO BLOW UP...


BUT IF YOU WANT MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION, THERE'S NO WAY A SIMPLE GLITCH LIKE THAT COULD OCCUR IN SUCH AN ADVANCED ROBOT.

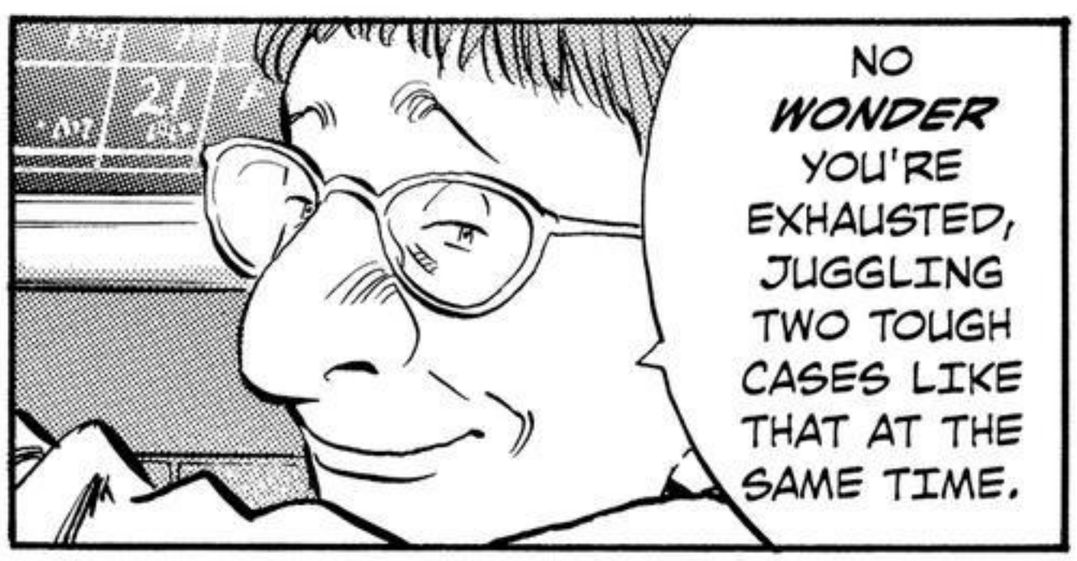

I KNOW YOU'RE HANDLING ANOTHER CASE TOO... AND IT SOUNDS LIKE A DIFFICULT ONE...
NOT AN EASY ASSIGNMENT, I'M SURE...

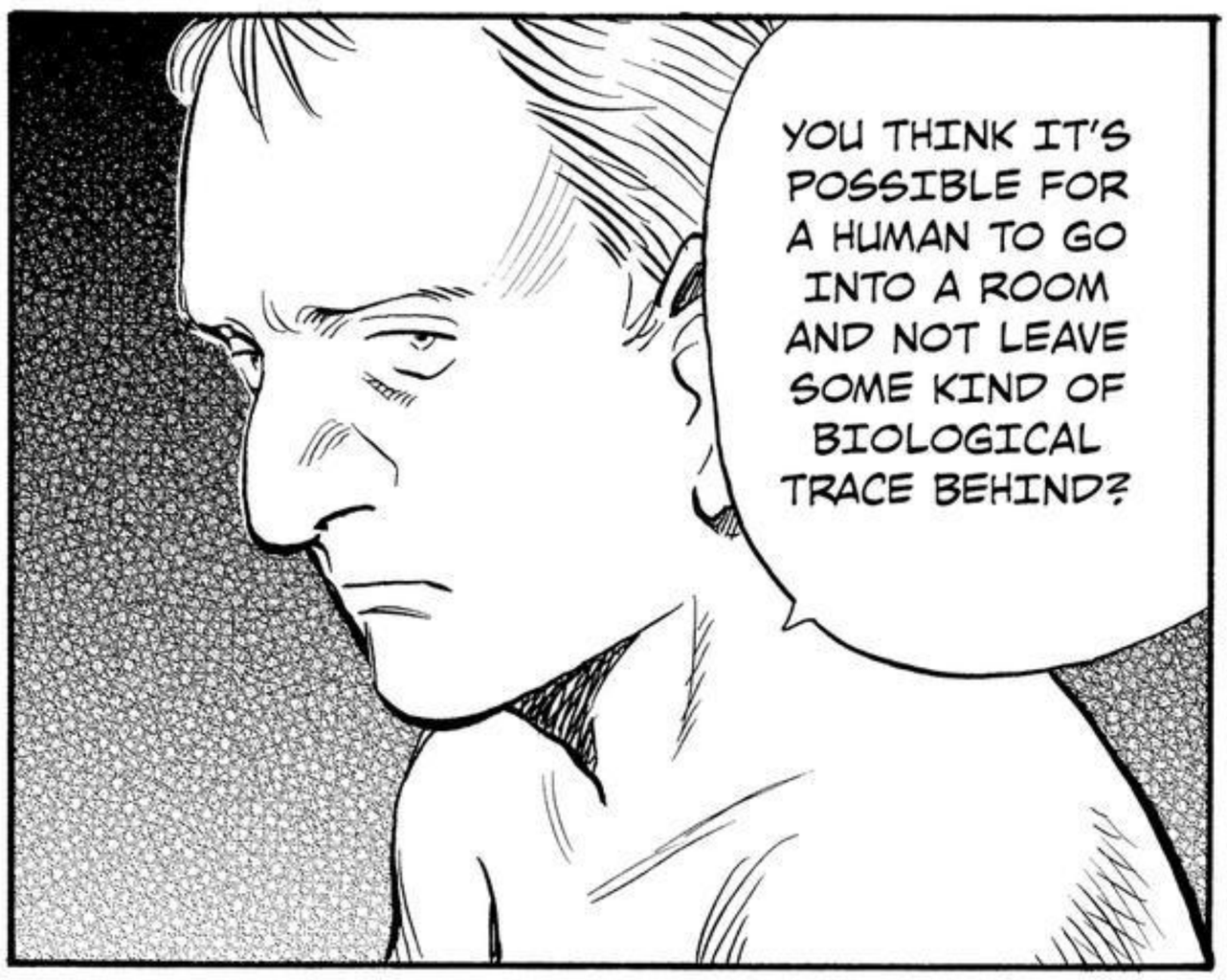

...AND BEFORE THAT HE WAS INVOLVED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE GROUPS AND THE CLASSICAL REFORM MOVEMENT TOO...
HE WAS HIGH UP IN ONE OF THOSE ROBOT LAW PRESERVATION GROUPS...

I'VE SEEN A NUMBER OF TV REPORTS ON IT, AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK LANKE PROBABLY HAD IT COMING...
...THE LANKE MURDER CASE, RIGHT?


ROBOT AND HUMAN... ONE WITHOUT AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD AND THE OTHER WITH NOTHING BUT ENEMIES...
HE WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE OF MONT BLANC...

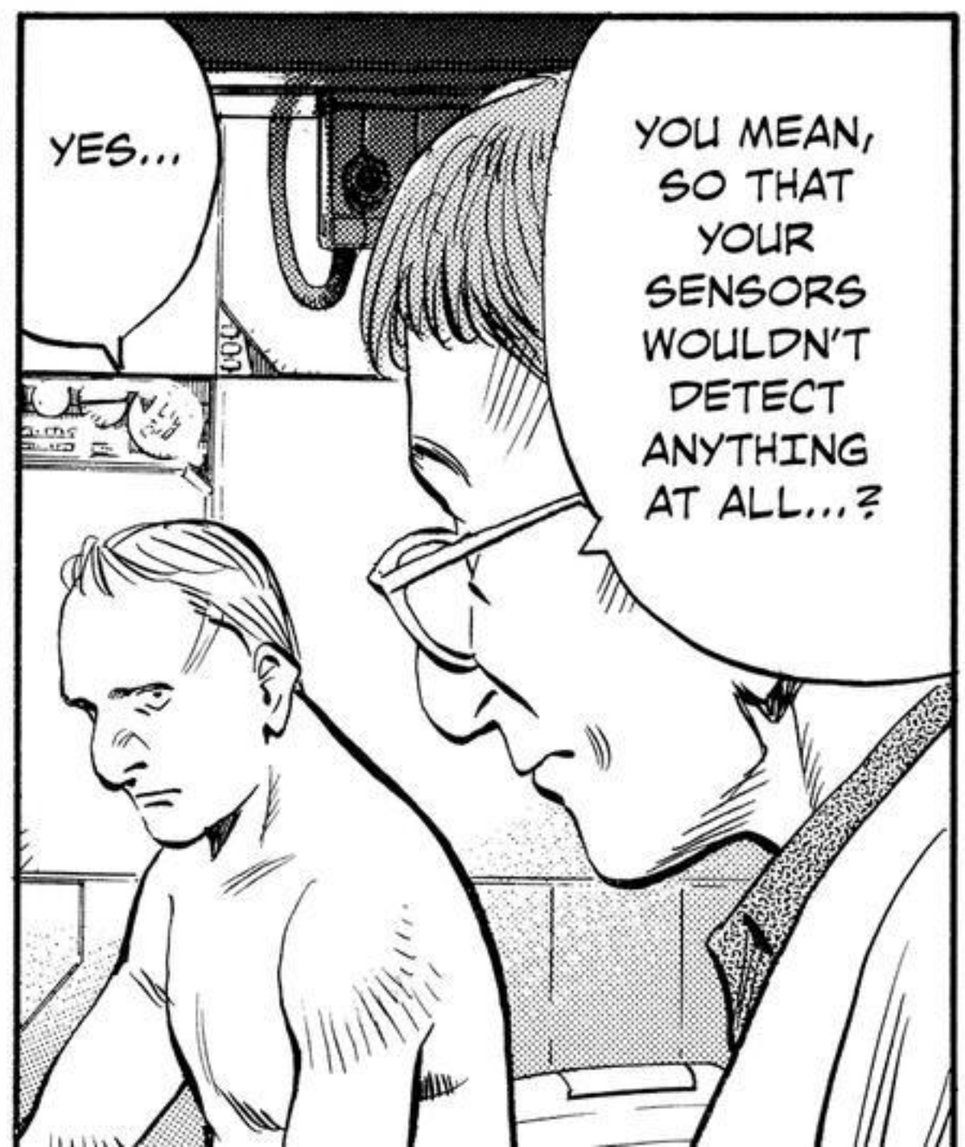
'COURSE, I CAN'T SAY THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT...
...BUT MAYBE HE SHOULD'VE KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT. YOU GIVE PEOPLE THE IMPRESSION YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN ON THEM AND YOU START TO MAKE ENEMIES, YOU KNOW?

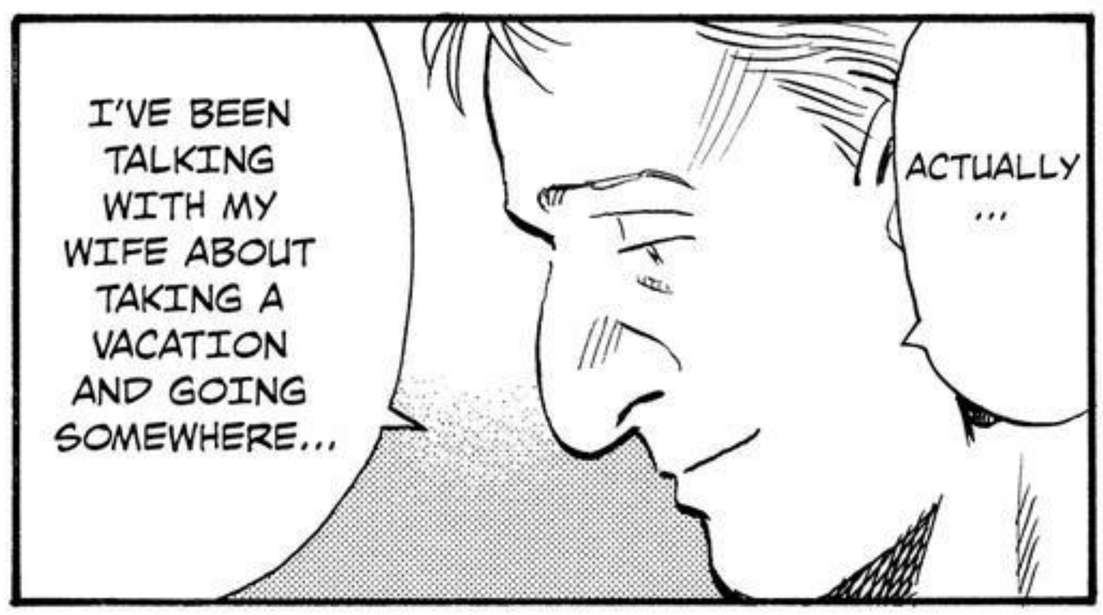

NO *WONDER* YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, JUGGLING TWO TOUGH CASES LIKE THAT AT THE SAME TIME.


YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR A HUMAN TO GO INTO A ROOM AND NOT LEAVE SOME KIND OF BIOLOGICAL TRACE BEHIND?

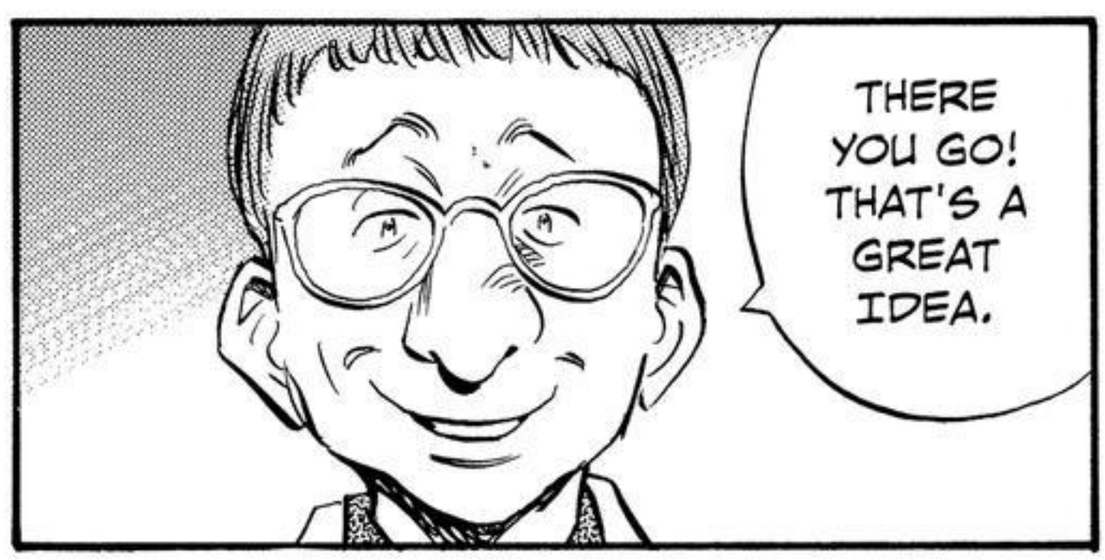
BE MY GUEST ...
PROFESSOR HOFFMAN... MIND IF I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

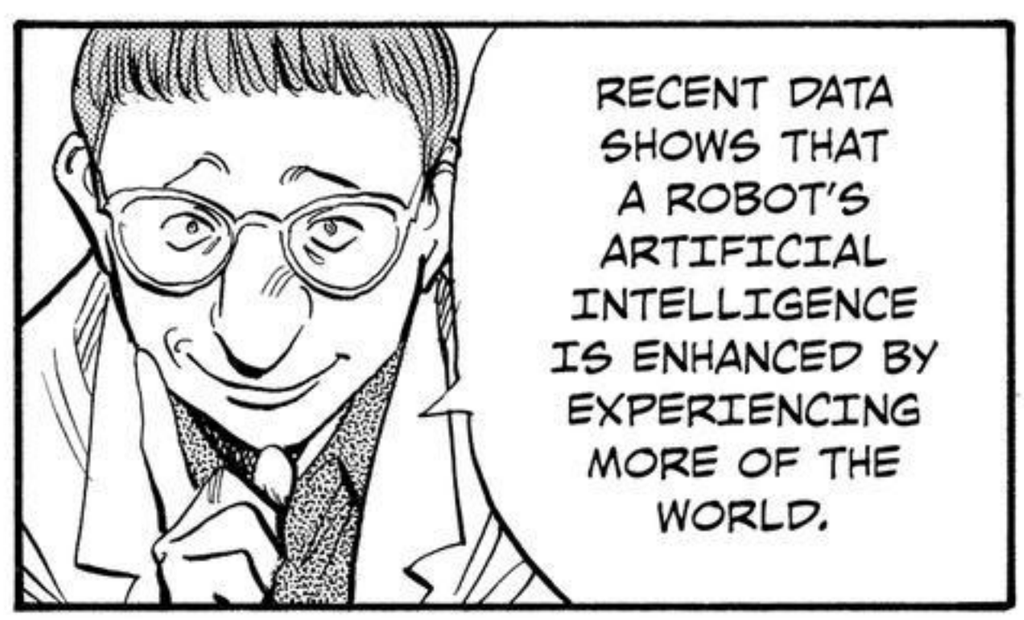
I WONDER ...
HMMM... AN INTERESTING QUESTION ...

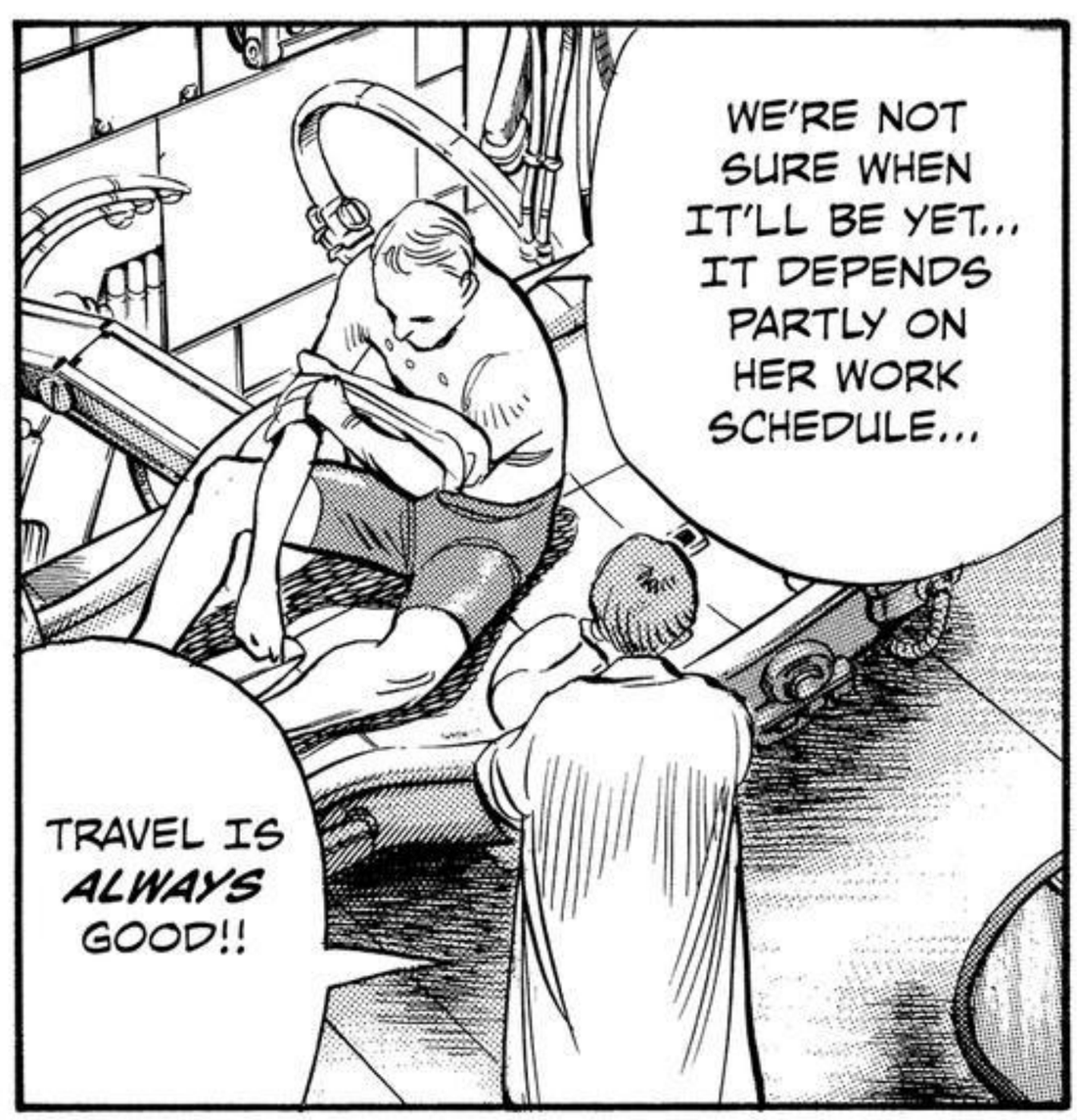

YES...
YOU MEAN, SO THAT YOUR SENSORS WOULDN'T DETECT ANYTHING AT ALL...?


I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH MY WIFE ABOUT TAKING A VACATION AND GOING SOMEWHERE...
ACTUALLY ...

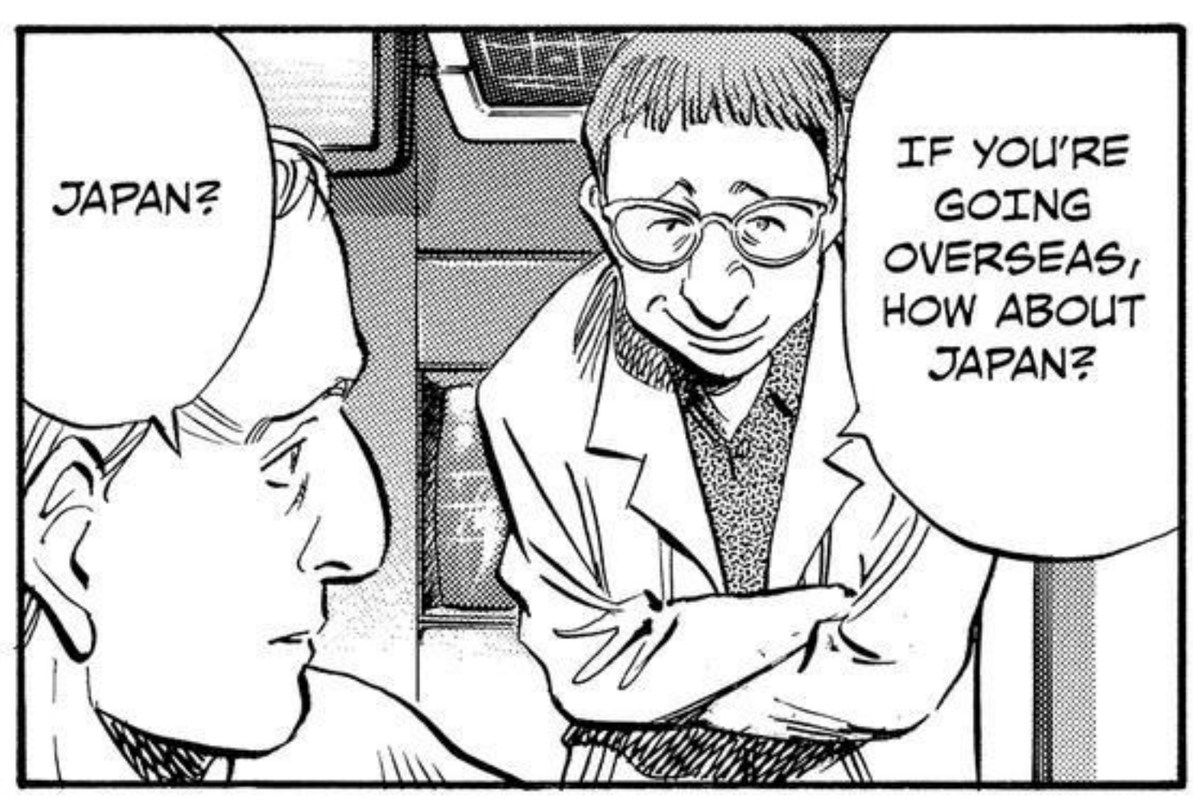
BUT I MUST APOLOGIZE. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO RELAX AND FORGET ABOUT WORK WHEN YOU'RE HERE!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'LL BE HOMEWORK FOR NEXT TIME...


THERE YOU GO! THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.


RECENT DATA SHOWS THAT A ROBOT'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS ENHANCED BY EXPERIENCING MORE OF THE WORLD.

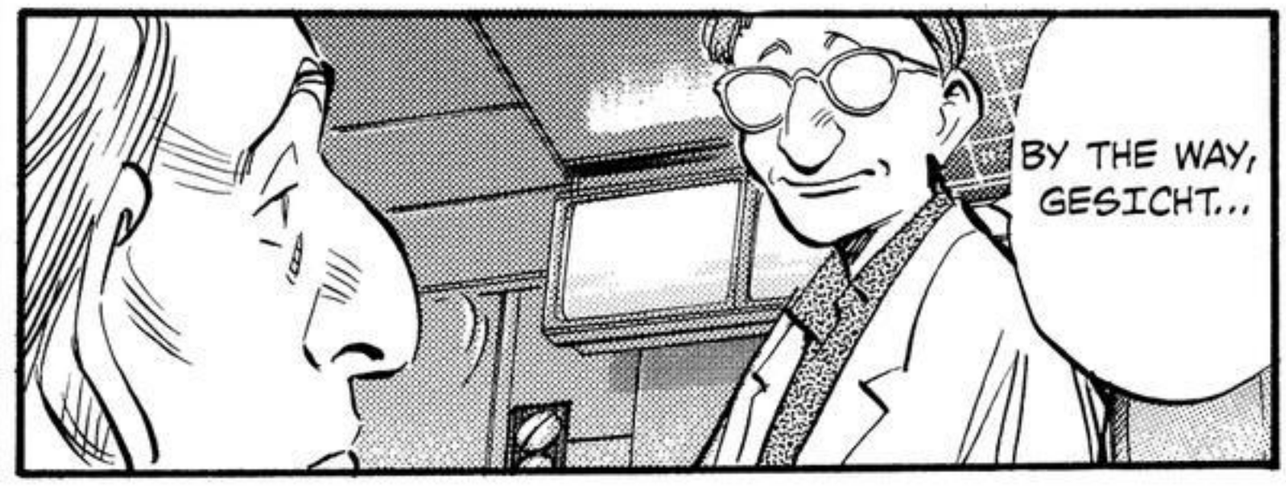

WE'RE NOT SURE WHEN IT'LL BE YET... IT DEPENDS PARTLY ON HER WORK SCHEDULE...
TRAVEL IS ALWAYS GOOD!!

I TELL YOU, TOKYO'S AN INTER-ESTING CITY! VERY EXOTIC!
A RESEARCH BUDDY OF MINE WHO LIVES THERE ONCE INVITED ME TO COME VISIT HIM...

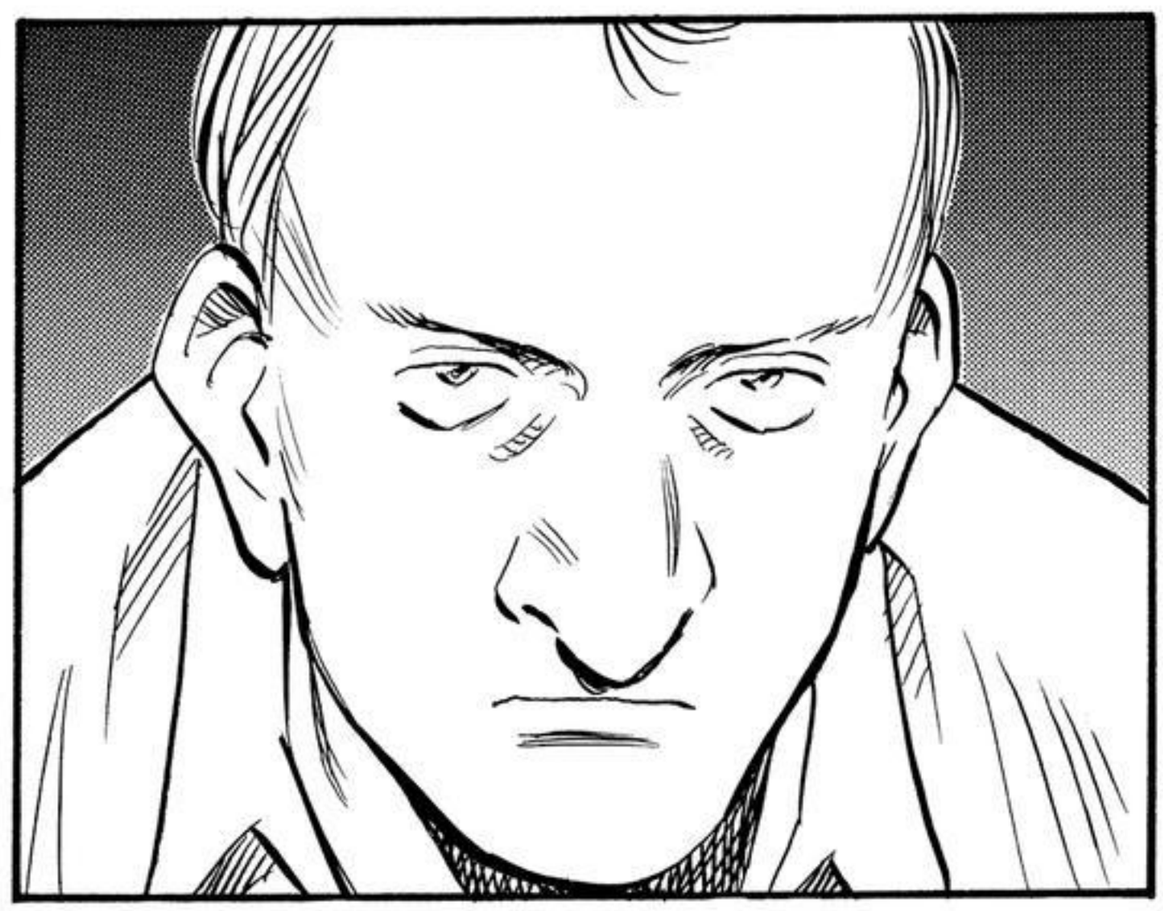

JAPAN?
IF YOU'RE GOING OVERSEAS, HOW ABOUT JAPAN?

ABOUT THOSE DREAMS YOU ONCE TOLD ME ABOUT...
YOU STILL HAVING THEM?

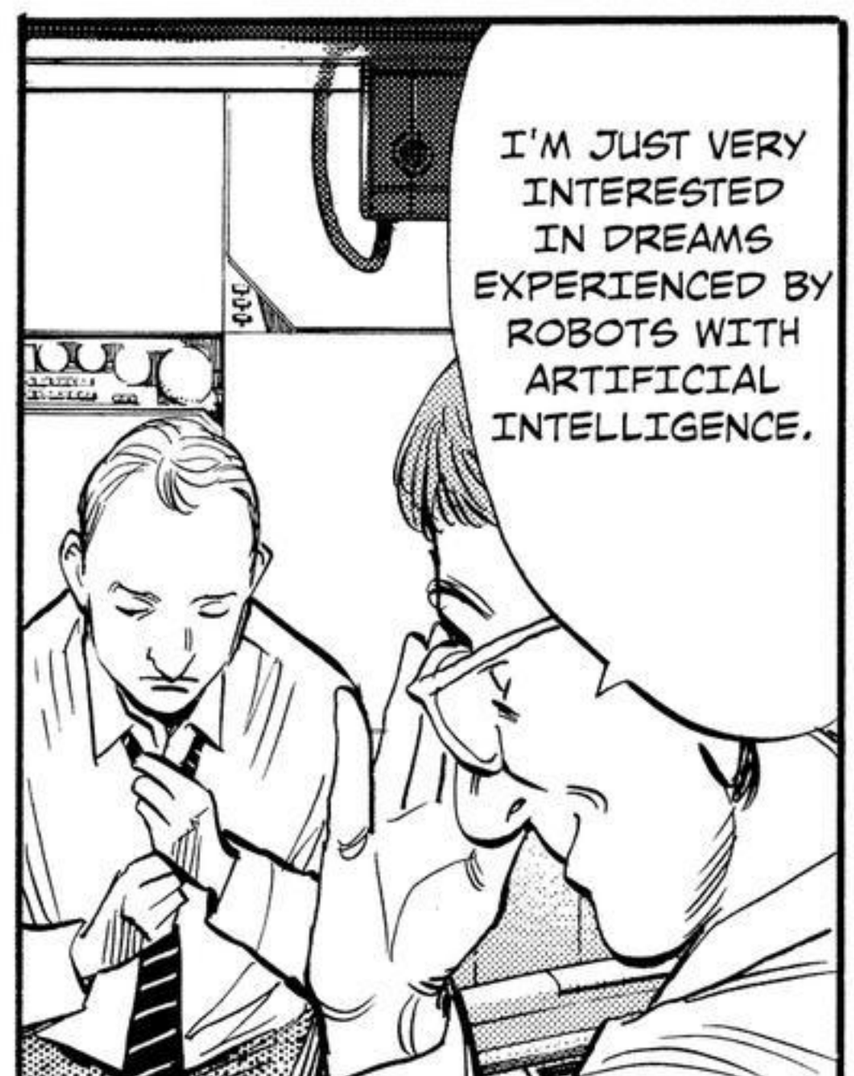
I'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH MY WIFE...
JAPAN, EH?


BY THE WAY, GESICHT...

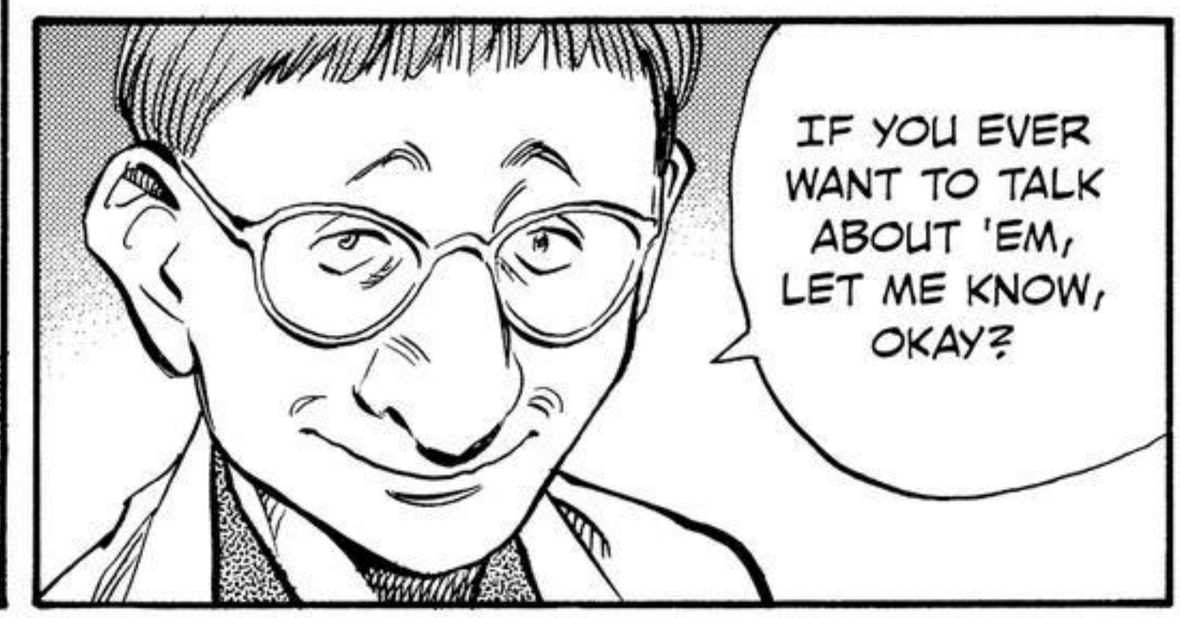
YES...
HEY, I DON'T WANT TO PUT YOU ON THE SPOT.

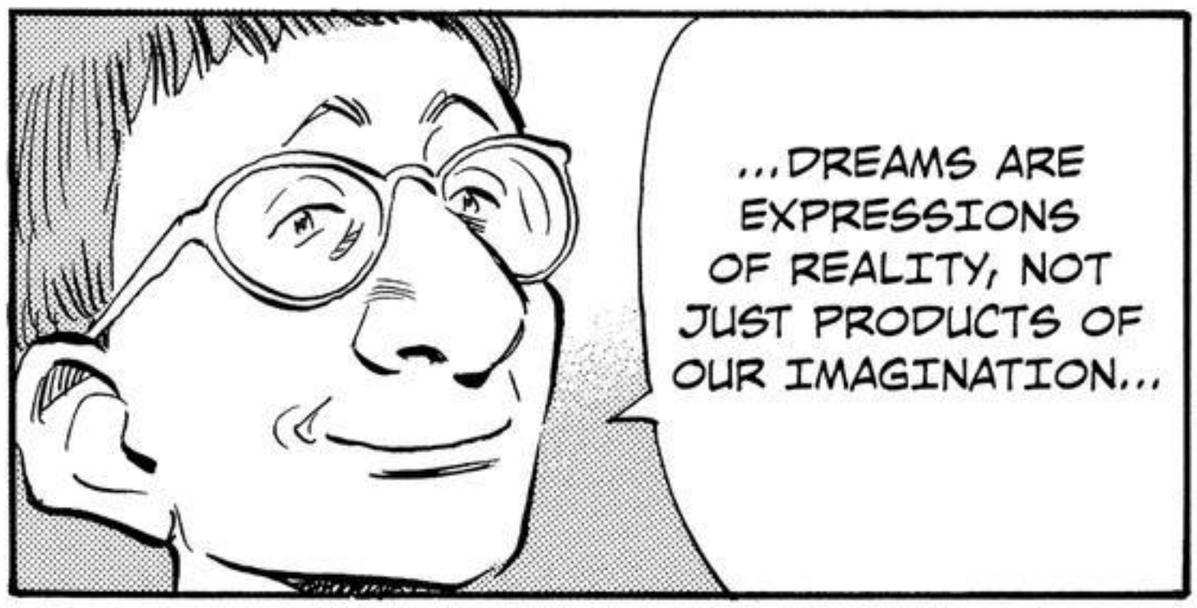


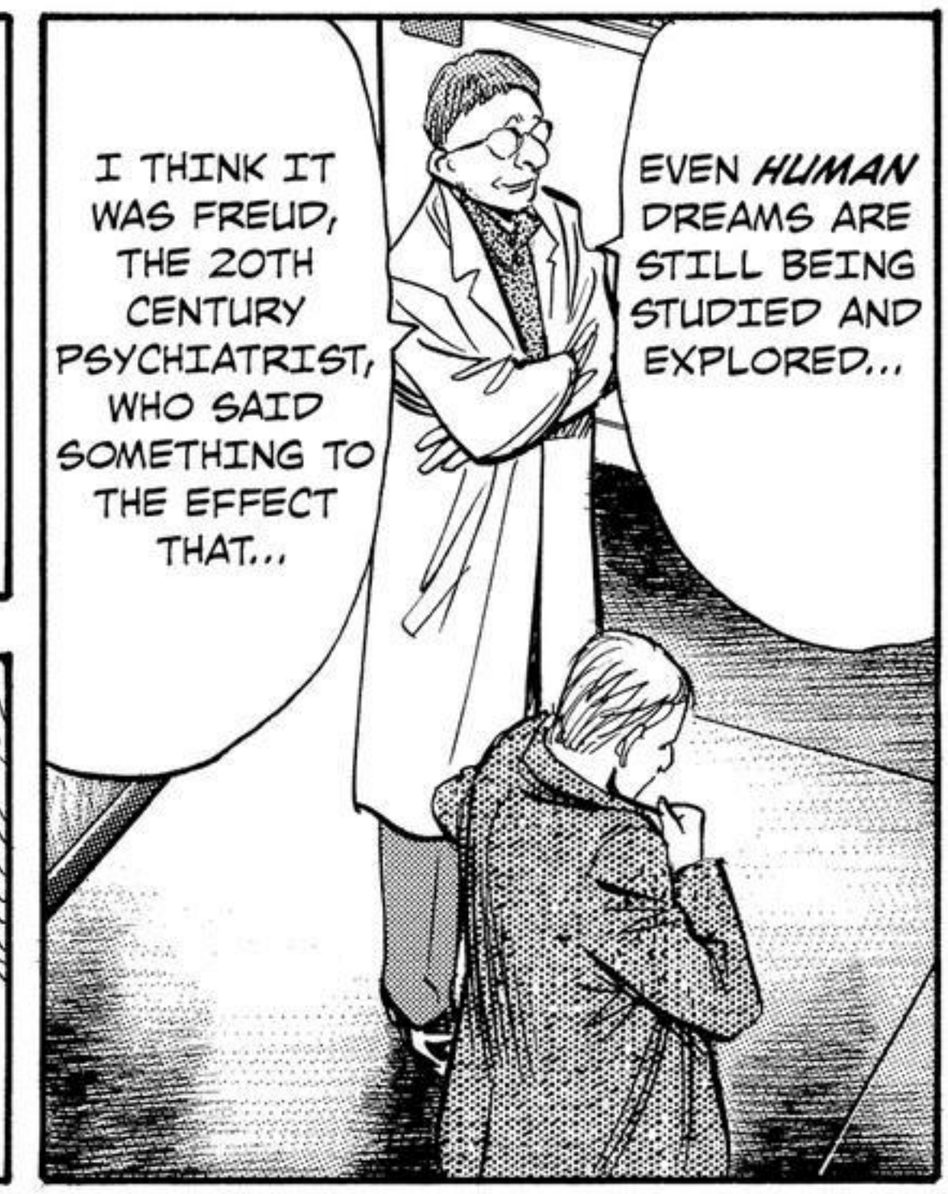
BUT IT'S NOT OFTEN I GET TO MEET A ROBOT THAT ACTUALLY HAS *DREAMS*...
IT'S BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN THAT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAN HAVE A SUBCONSCIOUS...

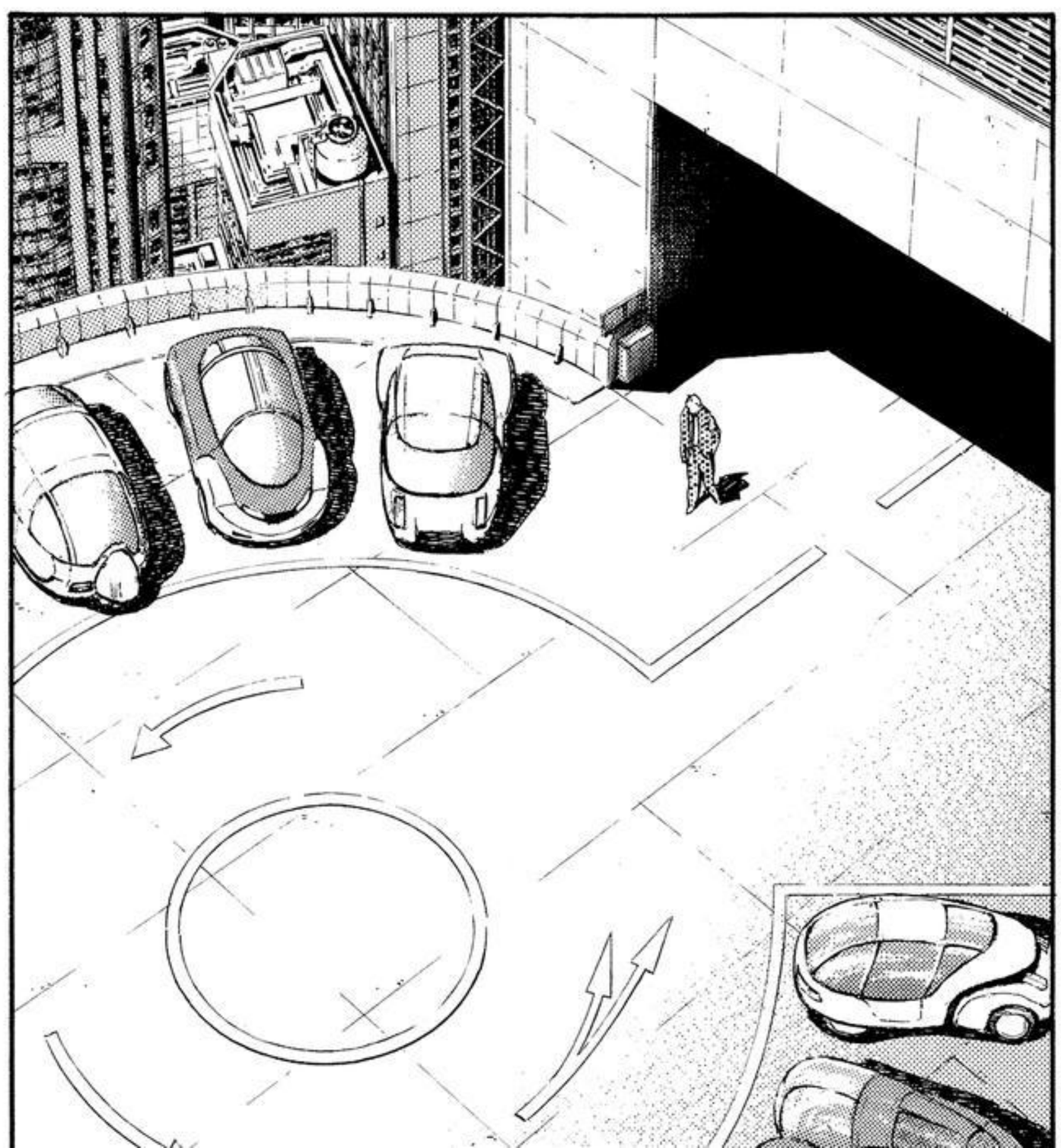

I'M JUST VERY INTERESTED IN DREAMS EXPERIENCED BY ROBOTS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

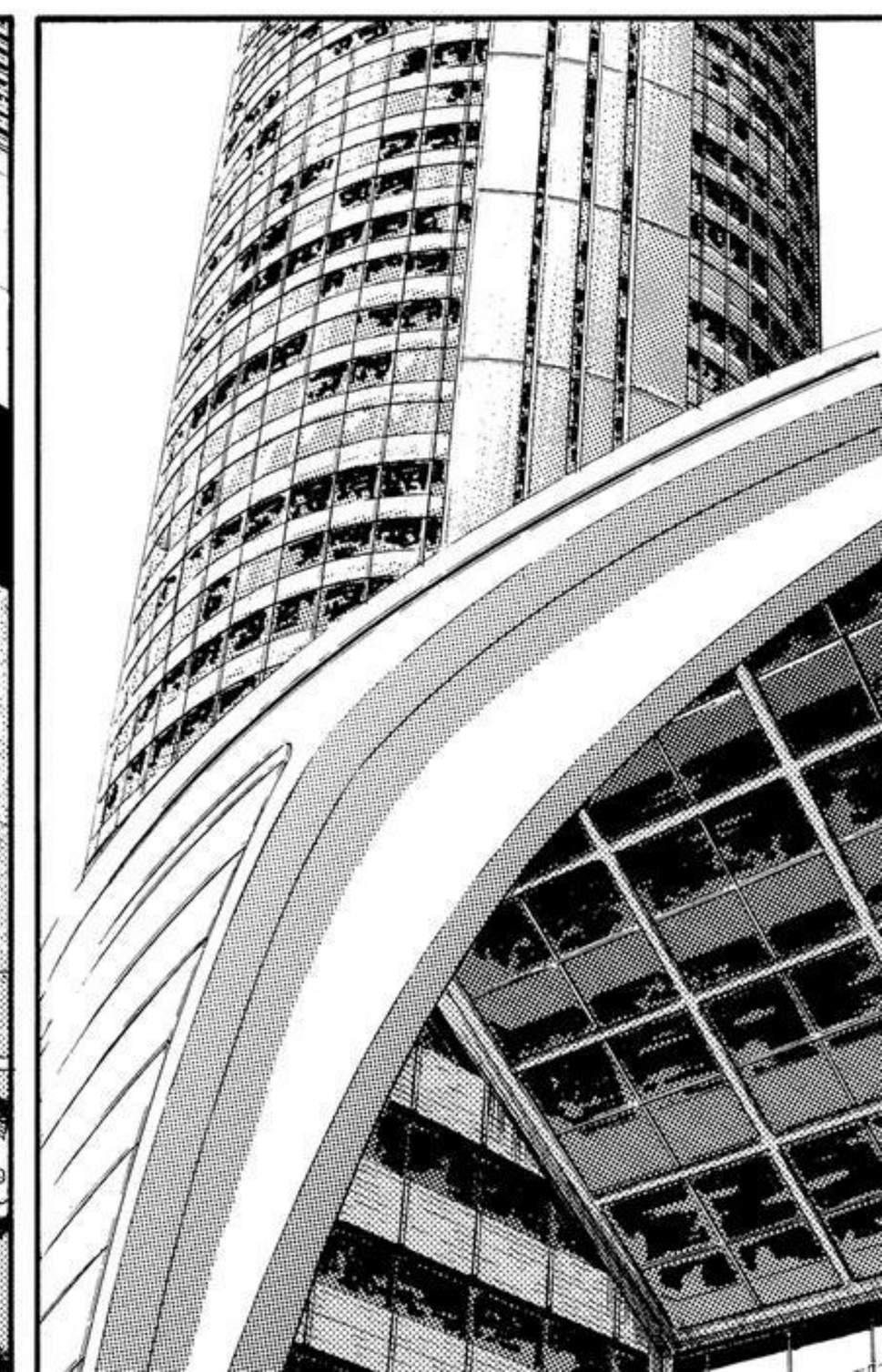
SURE...


IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT 'EM, LET ME KNOW, OKAY?


...DREAMS ARE EXPRESSIONS OF REALITY, NOT JUST PRODUCTS OF OUR IMAGINATION...


I THINK IT WAS FREUD, THE 20TH CENTURY PSYCHIATRIST, WHO SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT...
EVEN *HUMAN* DREAMS ARE STILL BEING STUDIED AND EXPLORED...





RATTLE RATTLE

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

EXCUSE ME, SIR...

RATTLE RATTLE

WHIRRR

RATTLE RATTLE

POLIZEI

THE CRIME LAB SAID THEY'RE DONE WITH THIS STUFF, SO I'M SUPPOSED TO THROW IT ALL OUT...

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...

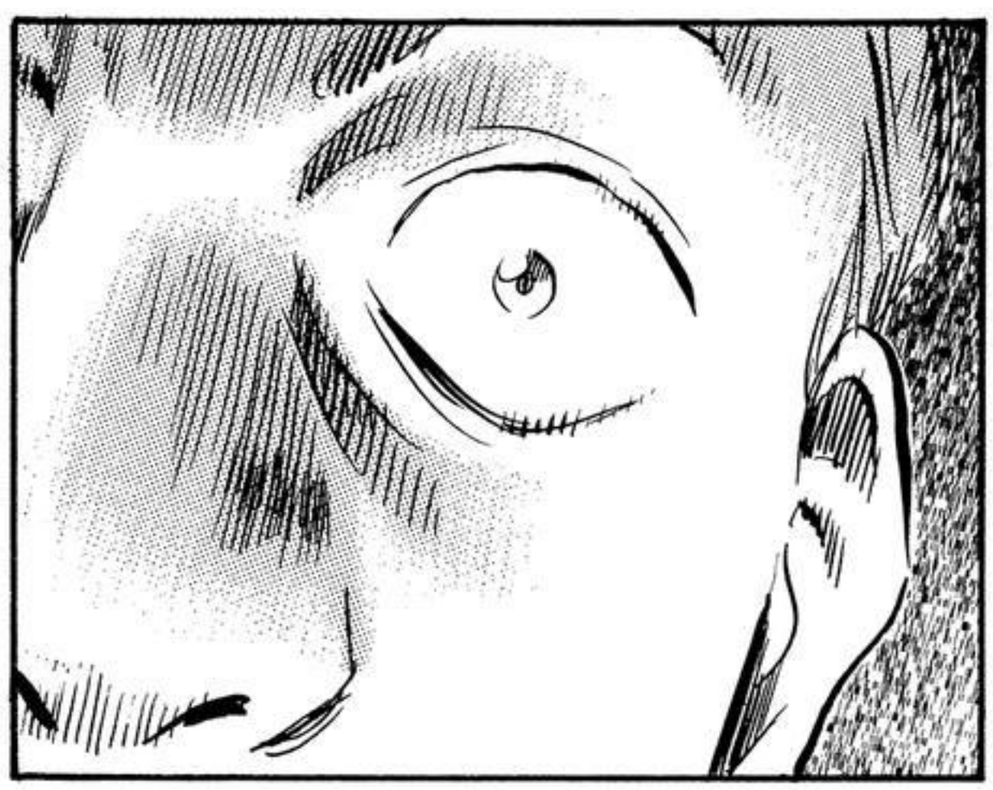
...A PATROL-BOT?

ISN'T THAT...

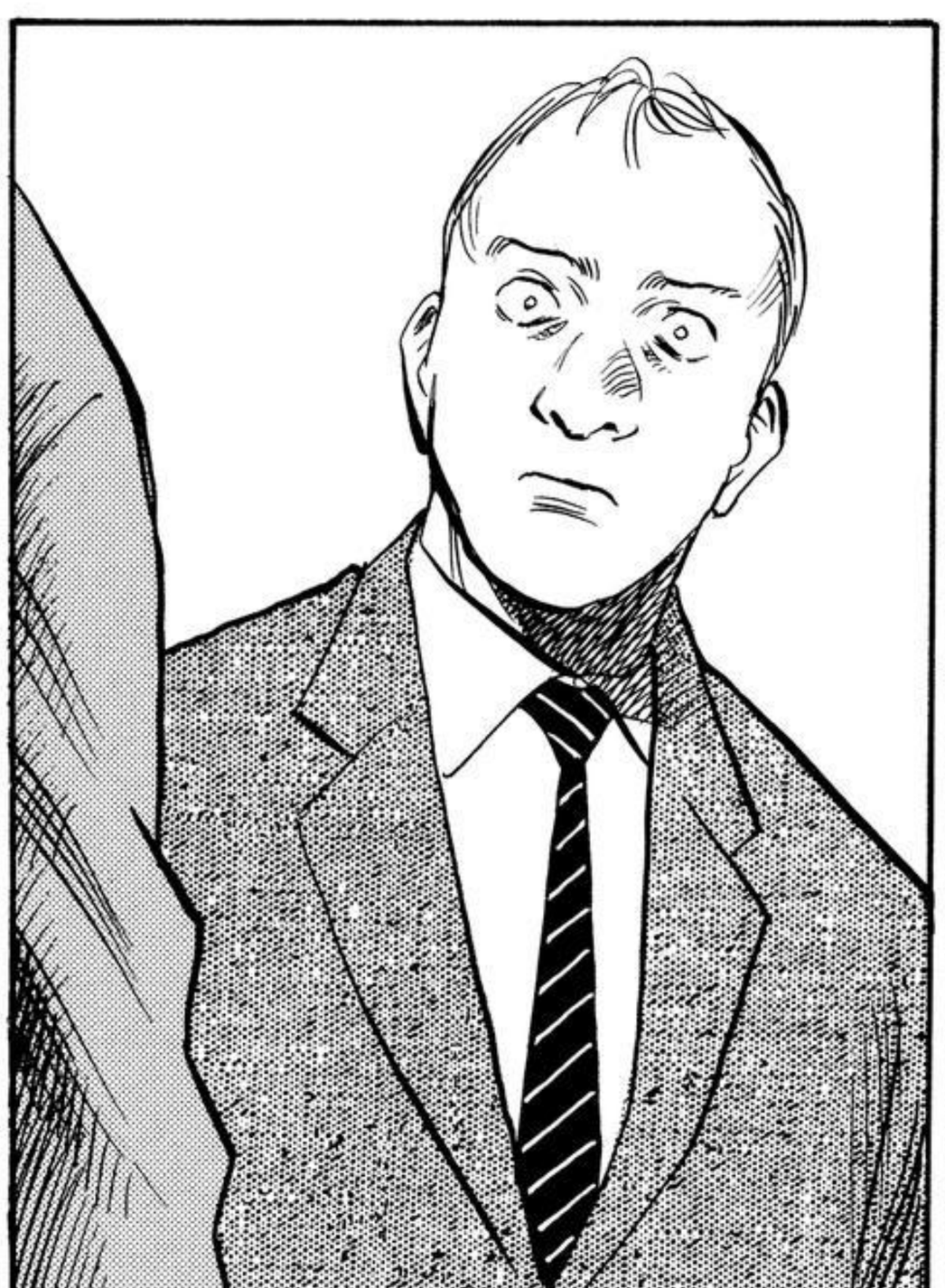
MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?
BE MY GUEST...

ROBBY ...

POLIZEI



IT'S ONLY JUNK AFTER ALL...
IF YOU SEE ANY PARTS YOU WANT, JUST TAKE 'EM, PAL.



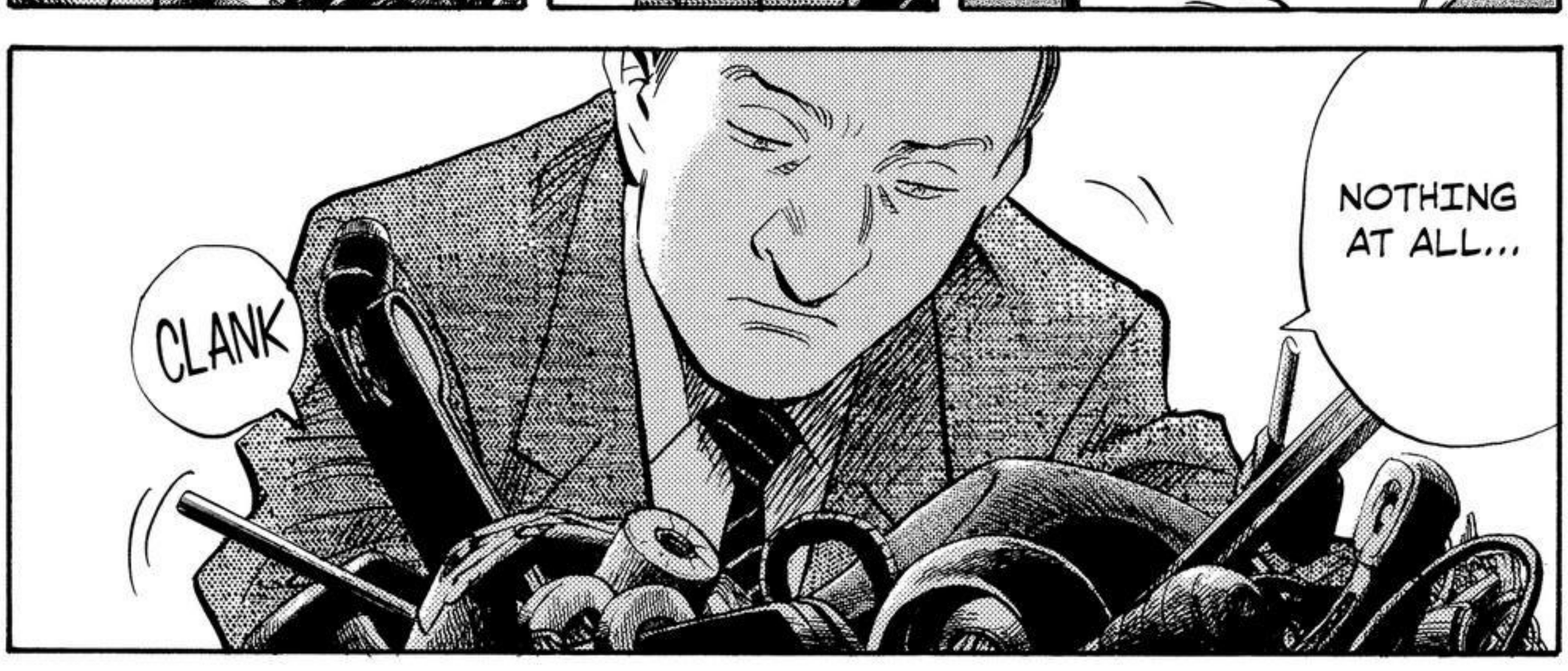
500 ZEUS A BODY.

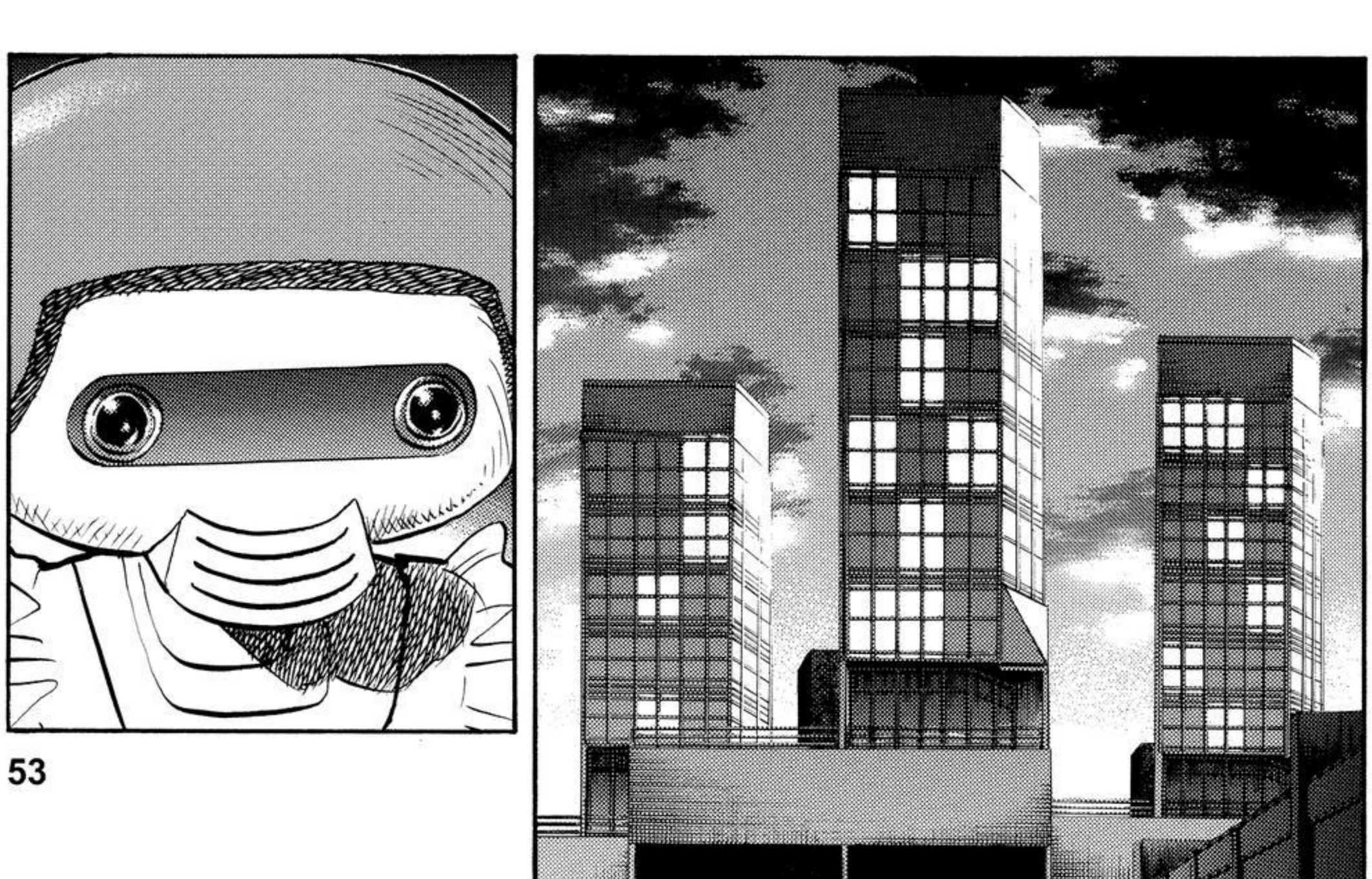
NOTHING ...

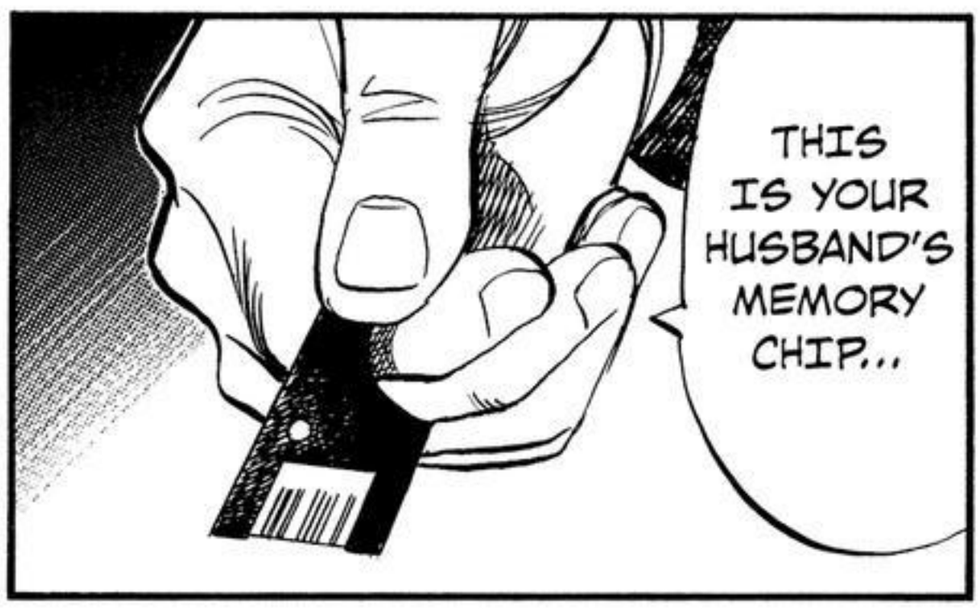
N... NO...

SOME-THING THE MATTER?

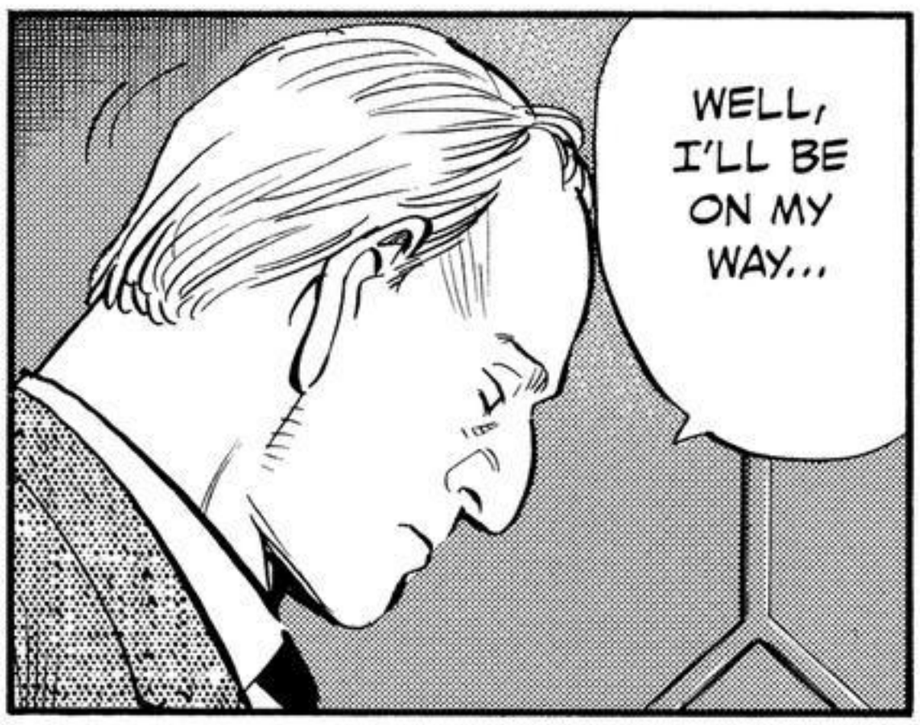
...!


CLANK
NOTHING AT ALL...

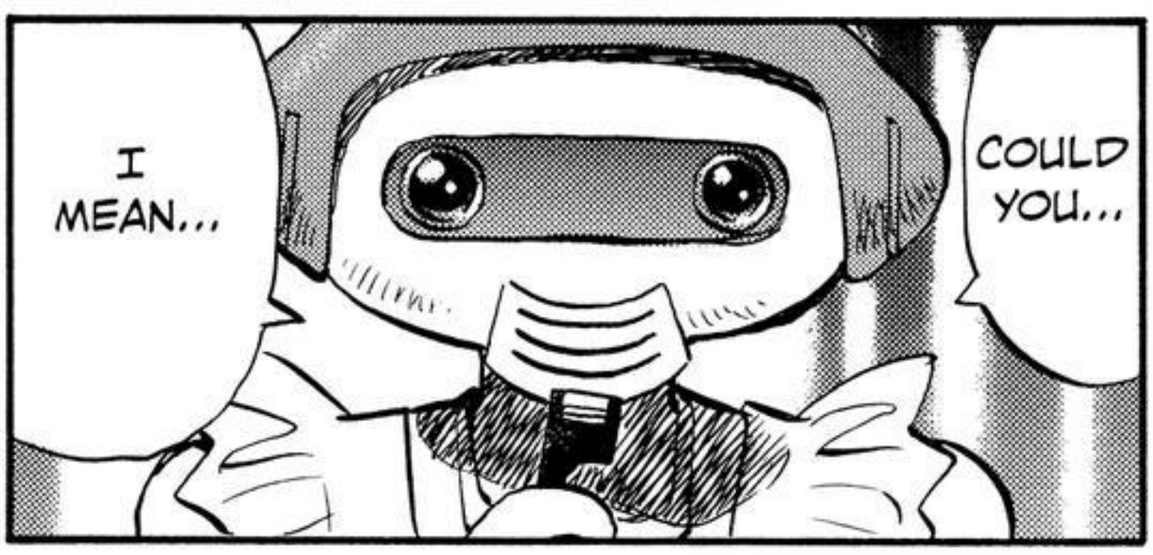


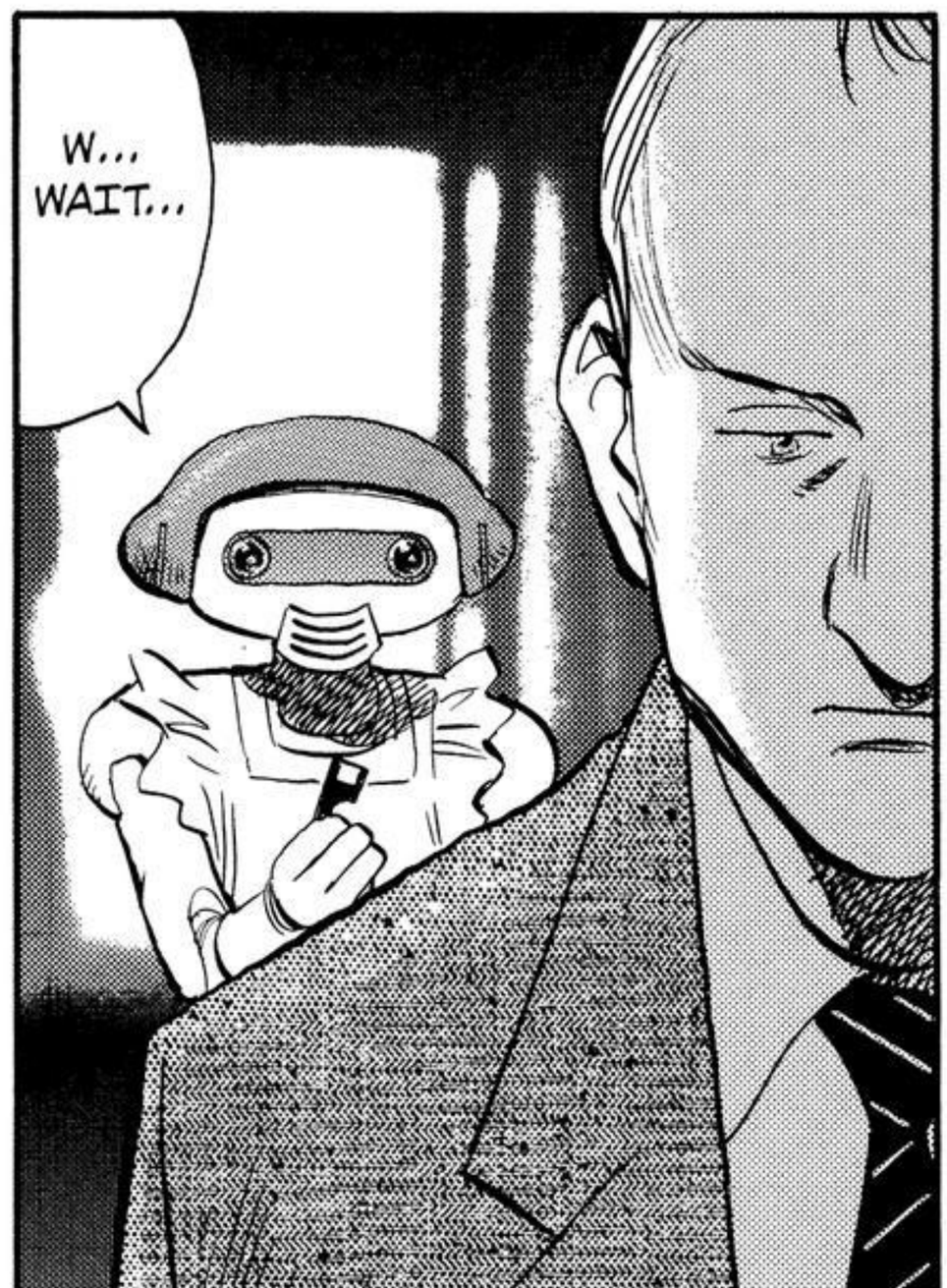

THIS IS YOUR HUSBAND'S MEMORY CHIP...

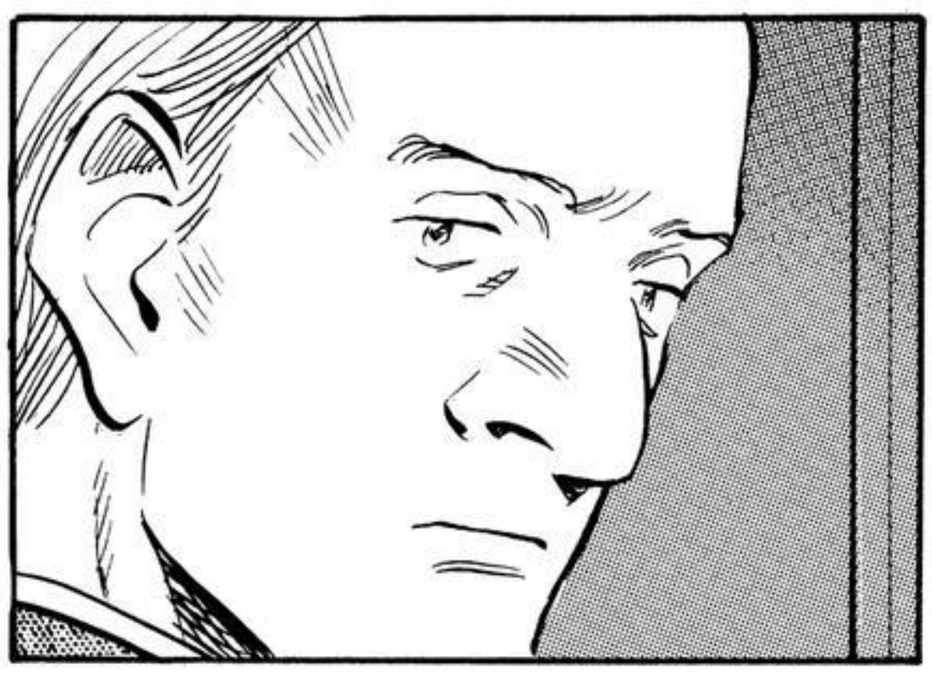
IT MAY NOT BE MY PLACE, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT IT AS A KEEPSAKE...

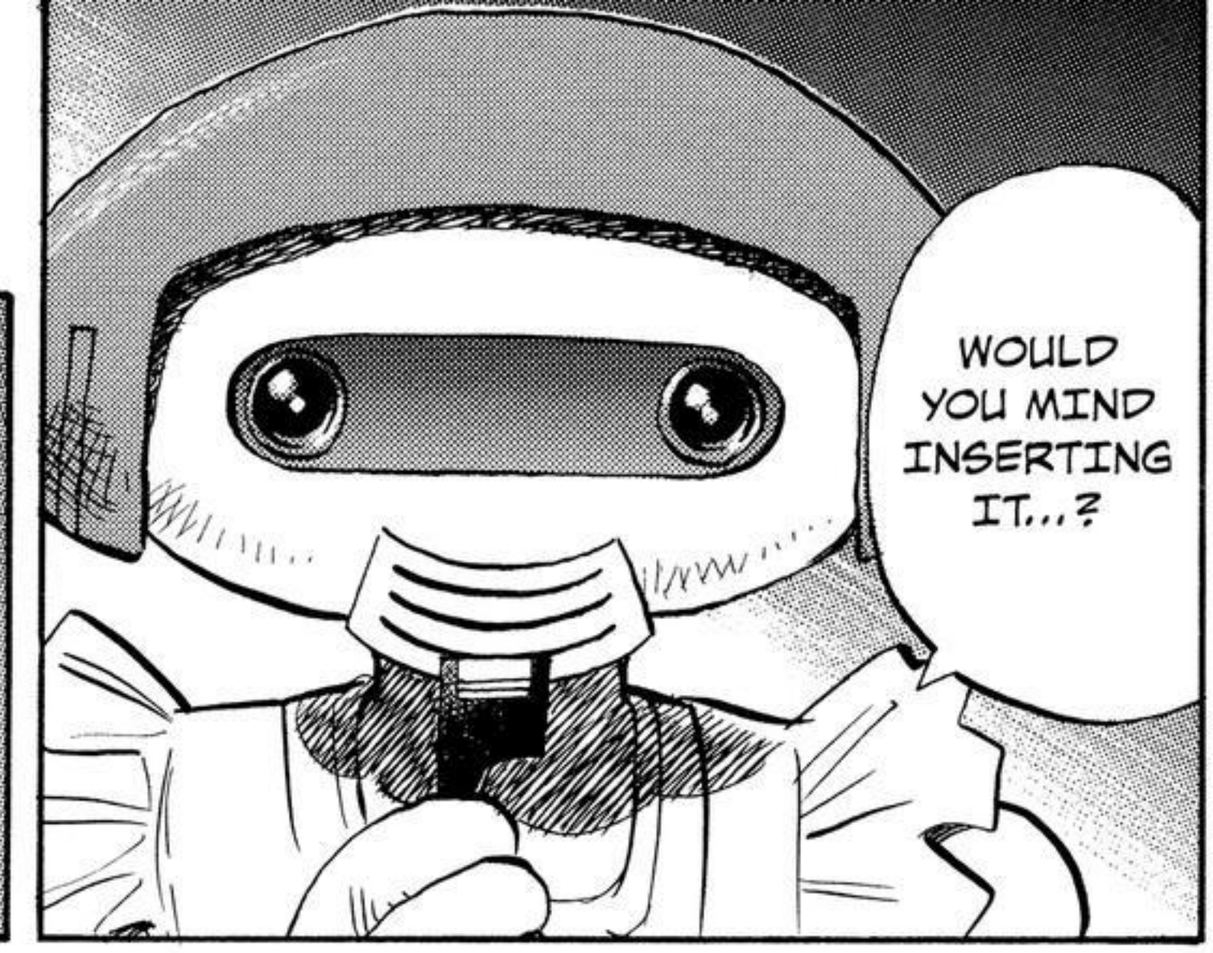

WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY...

THANK YOU SO MUCH...
THAT'S SO KIND OF YOU. I'M VERY GRATEFUL...

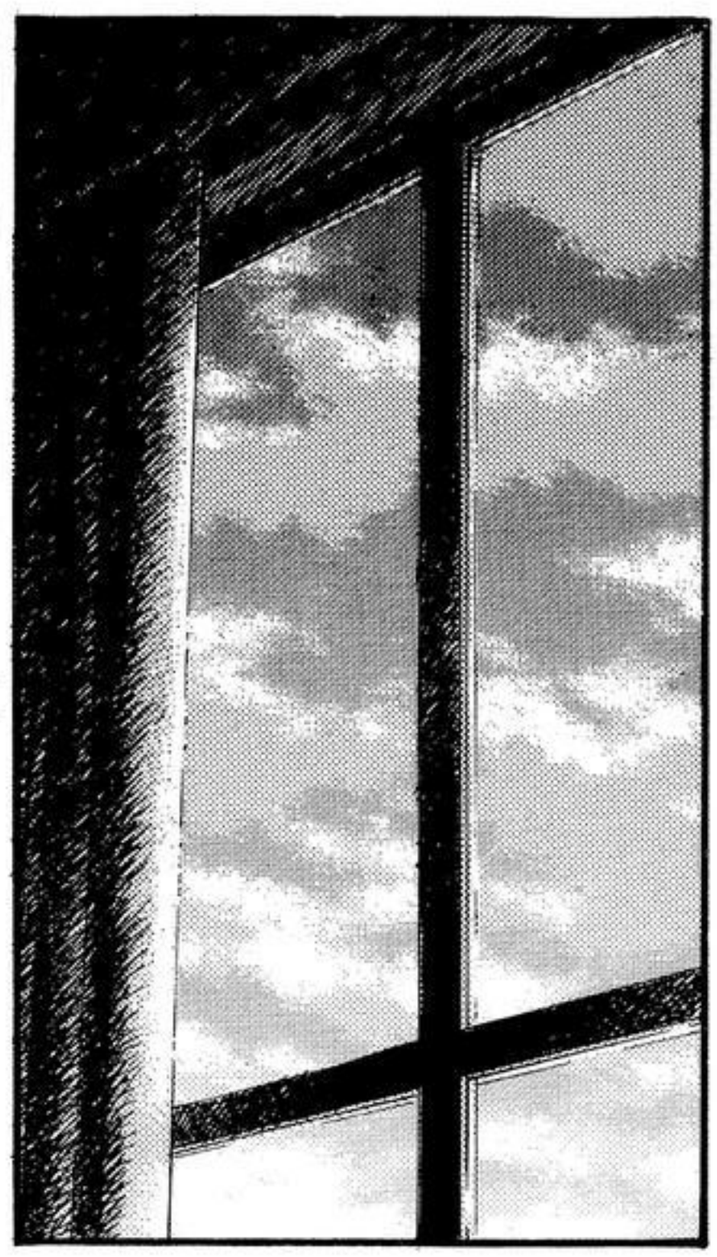

I MEAN...
COULD YOU...

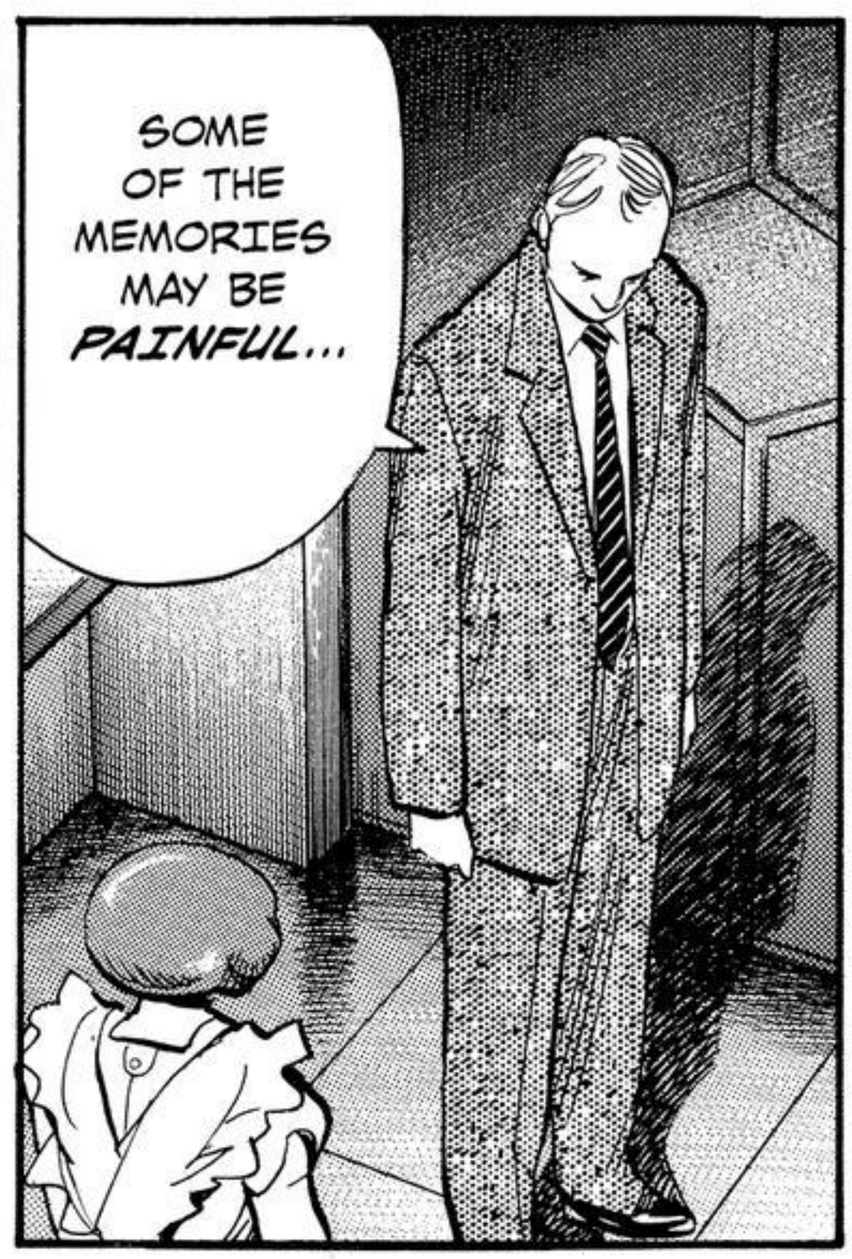

W... WAIT...

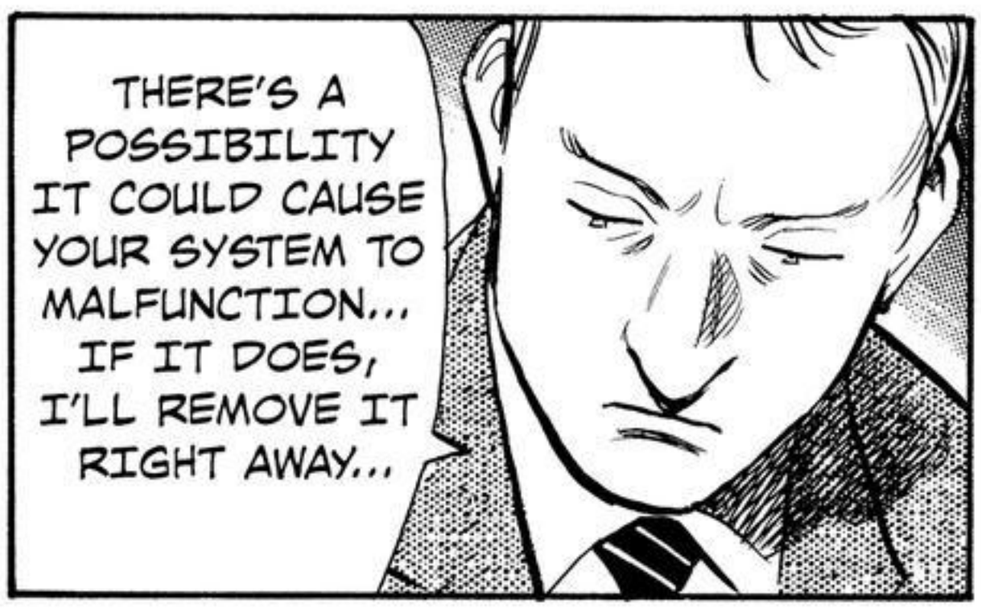


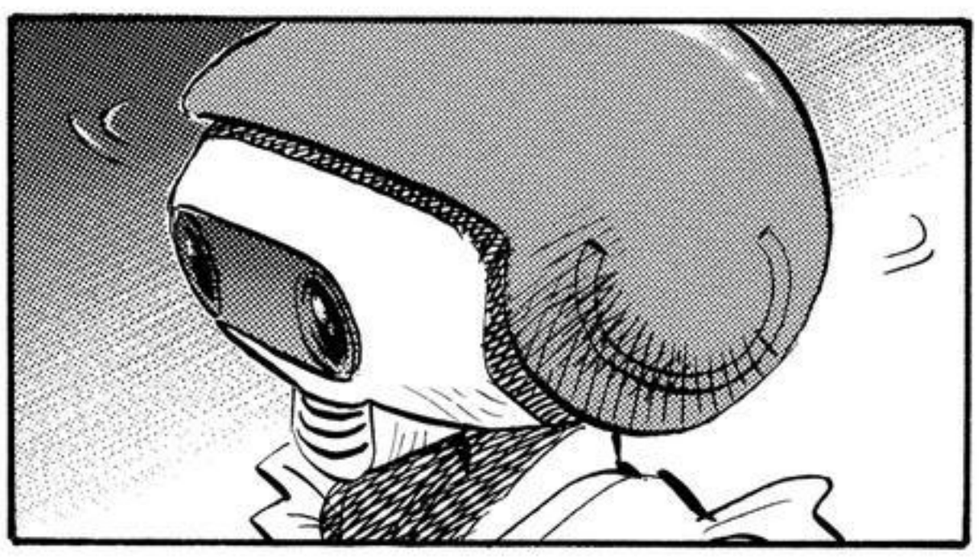

WOULD YOU MIND INSERTING IT...?

CLICK



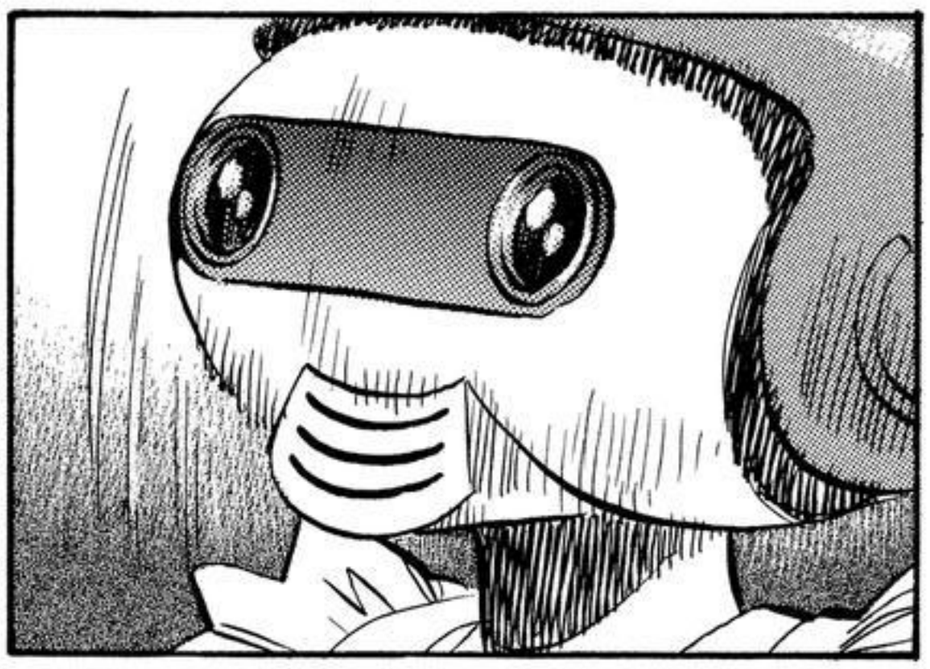

SOME OF THE MEMORIES MAY BE PAINFUL...


THERE'S A POSSIBILITY IT COULD CAUSE YOUR SYSTEM TO MALFUNCTION... IF IT DOES, I'LL REMOVE IT RIGHT AWAY...

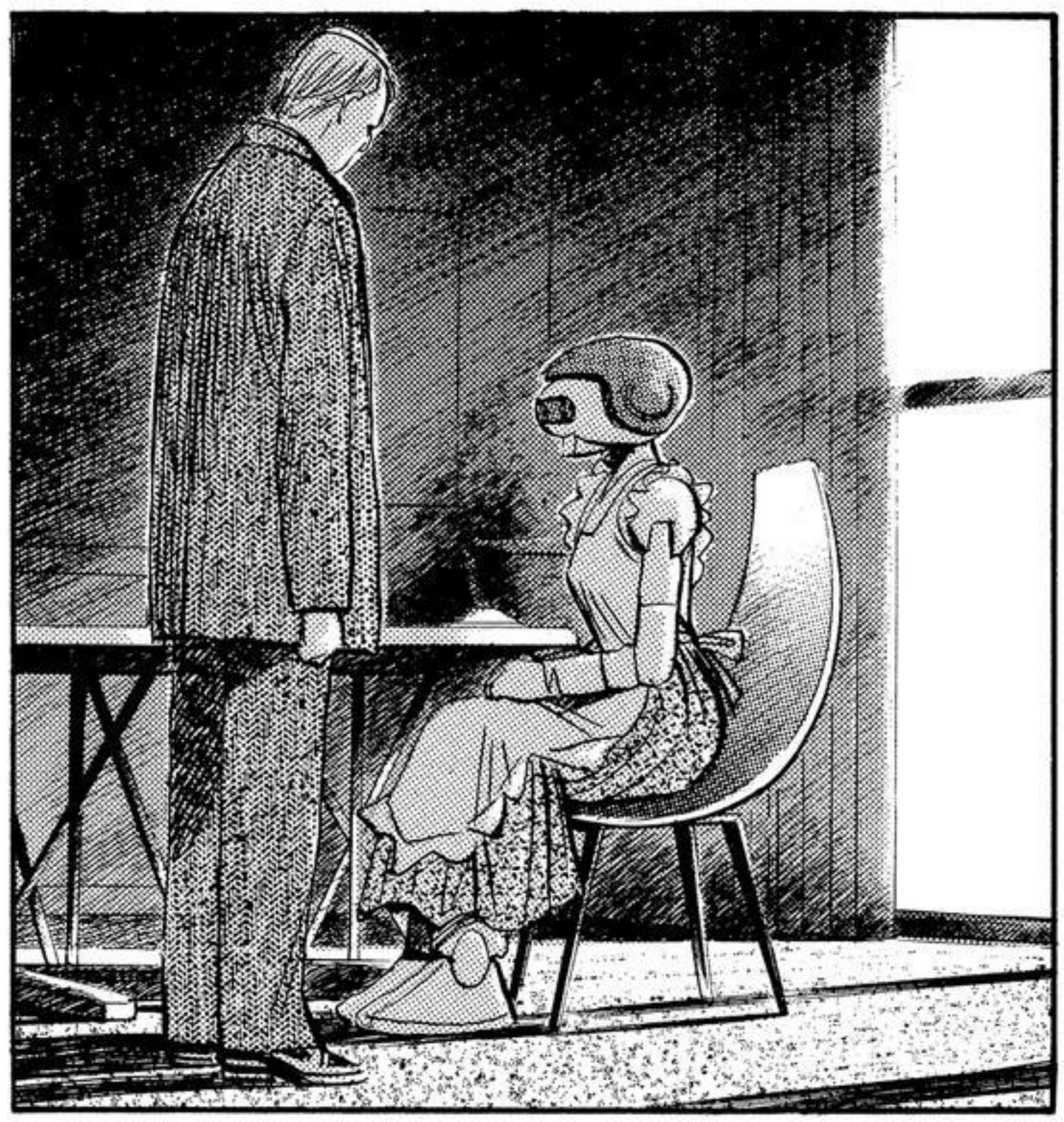


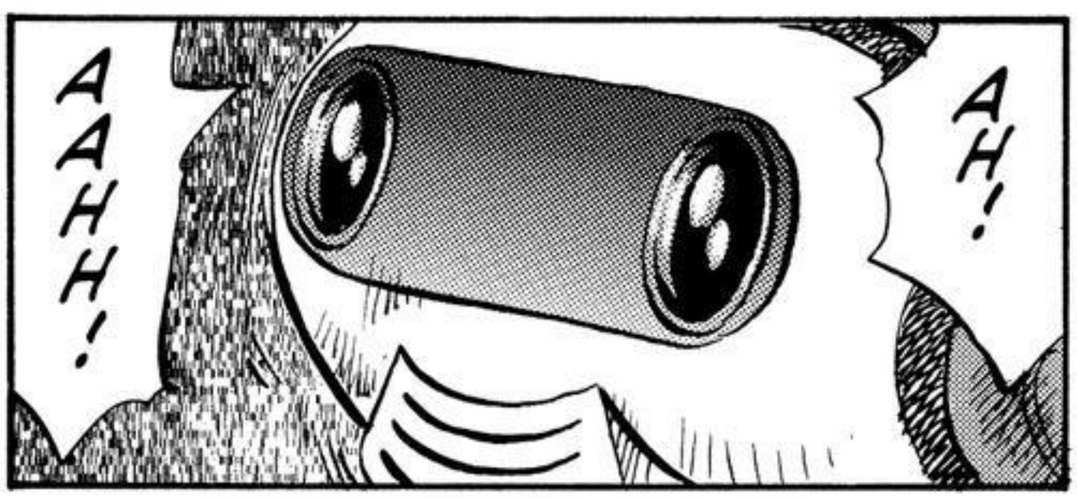
ARE YOU OKAY?

HE'S RIGHT *HERE*...
HE'S...

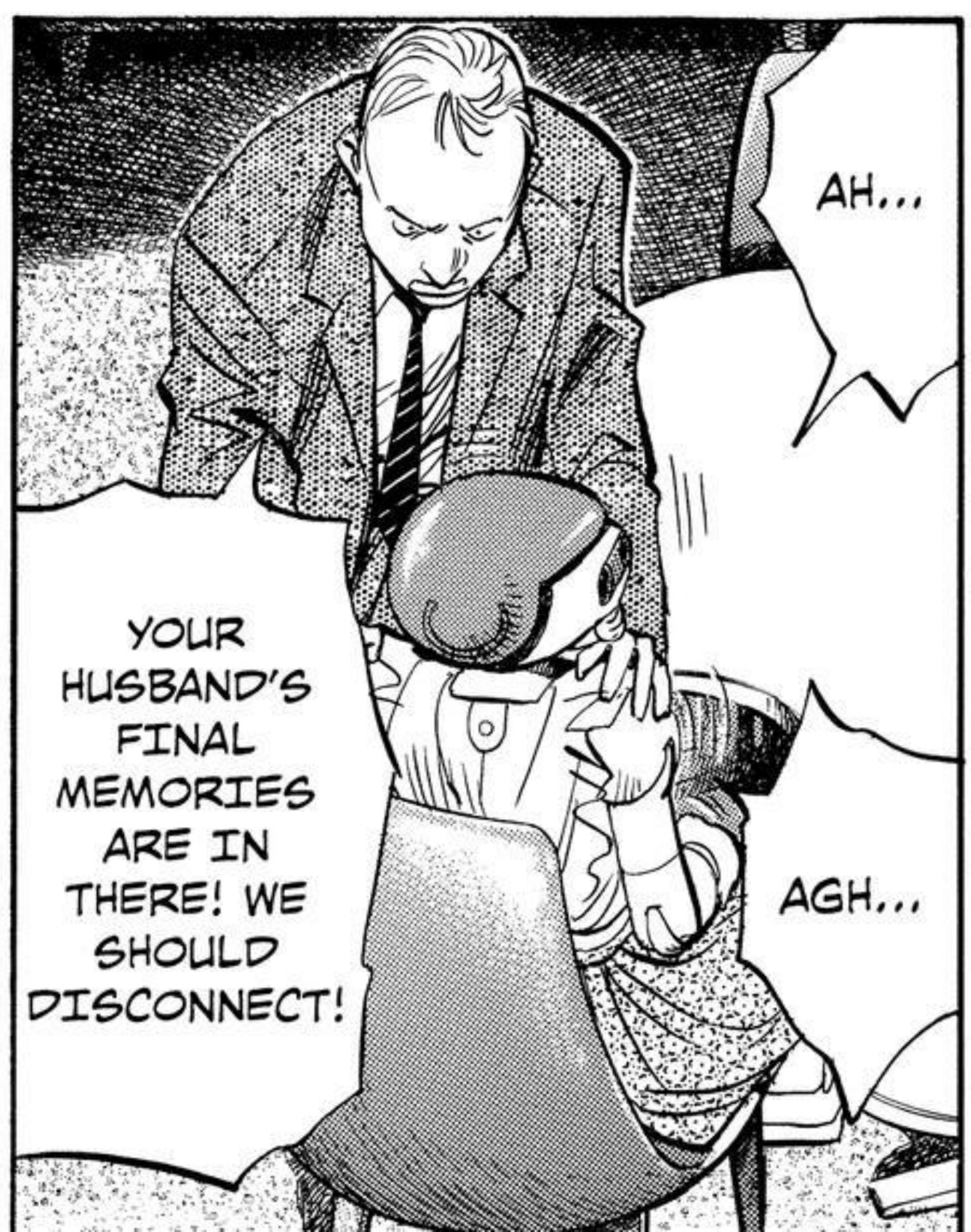


?!

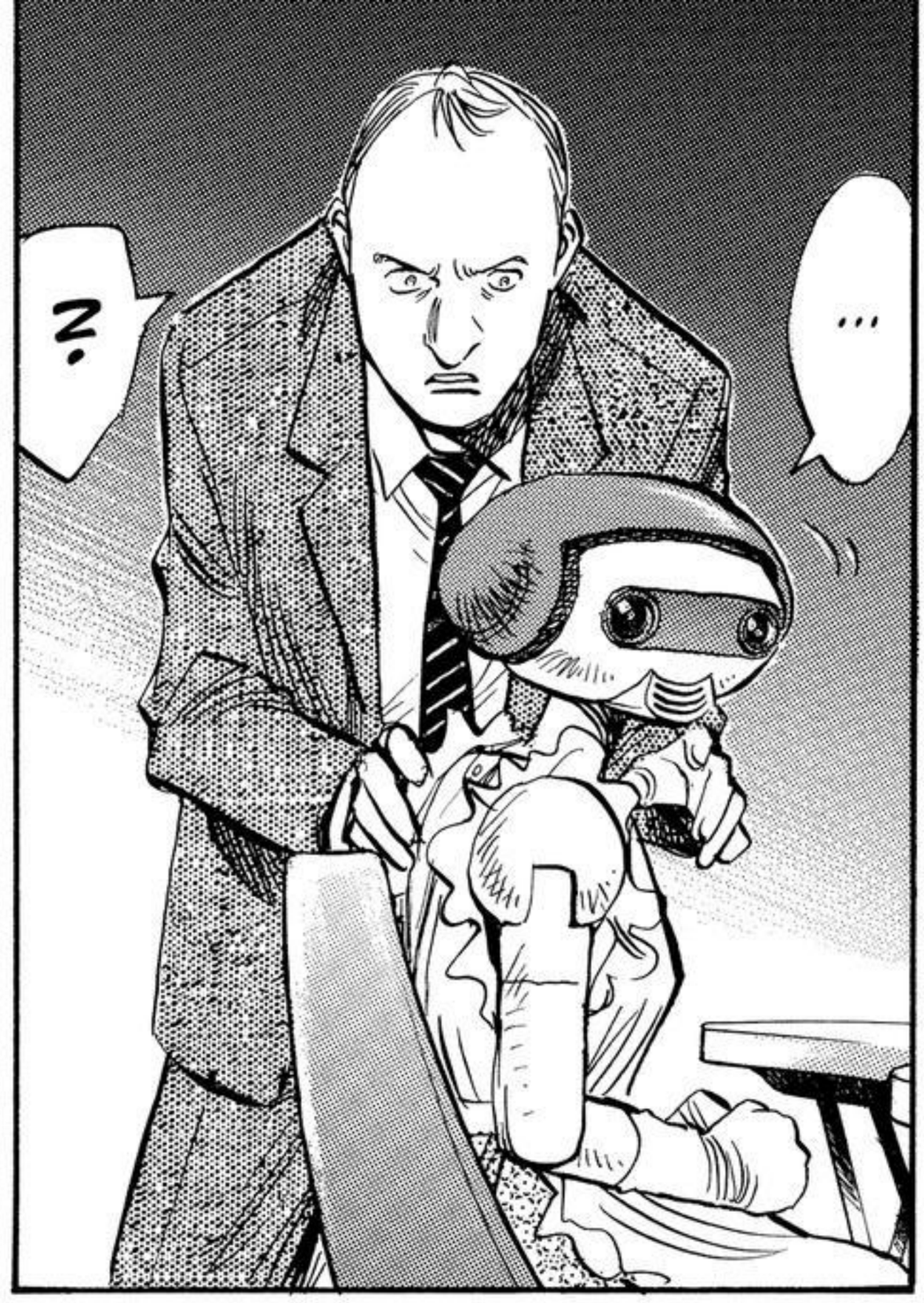


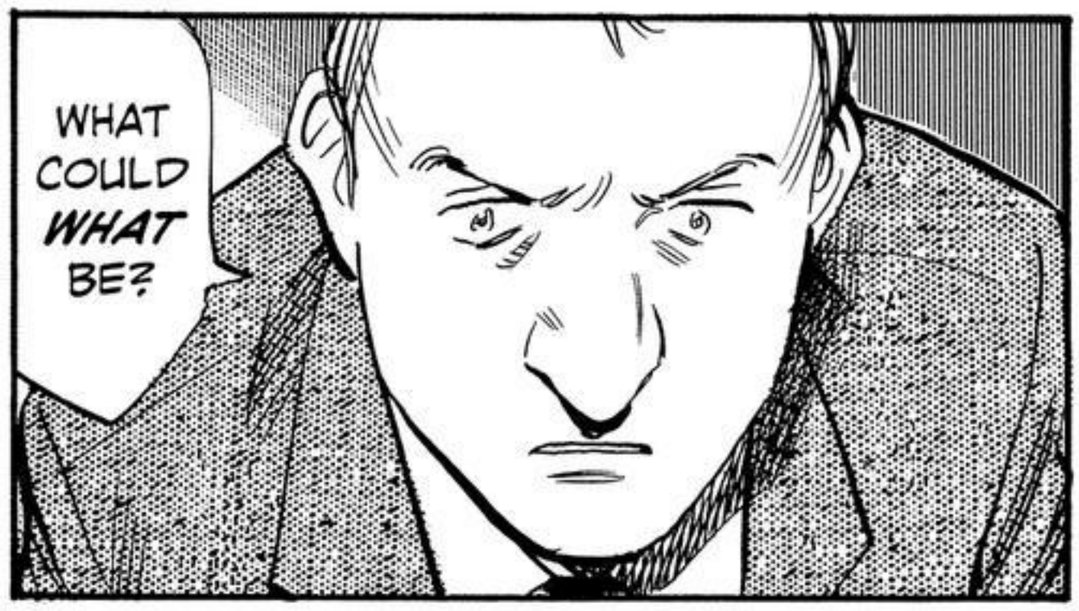

AAHH!
AH!

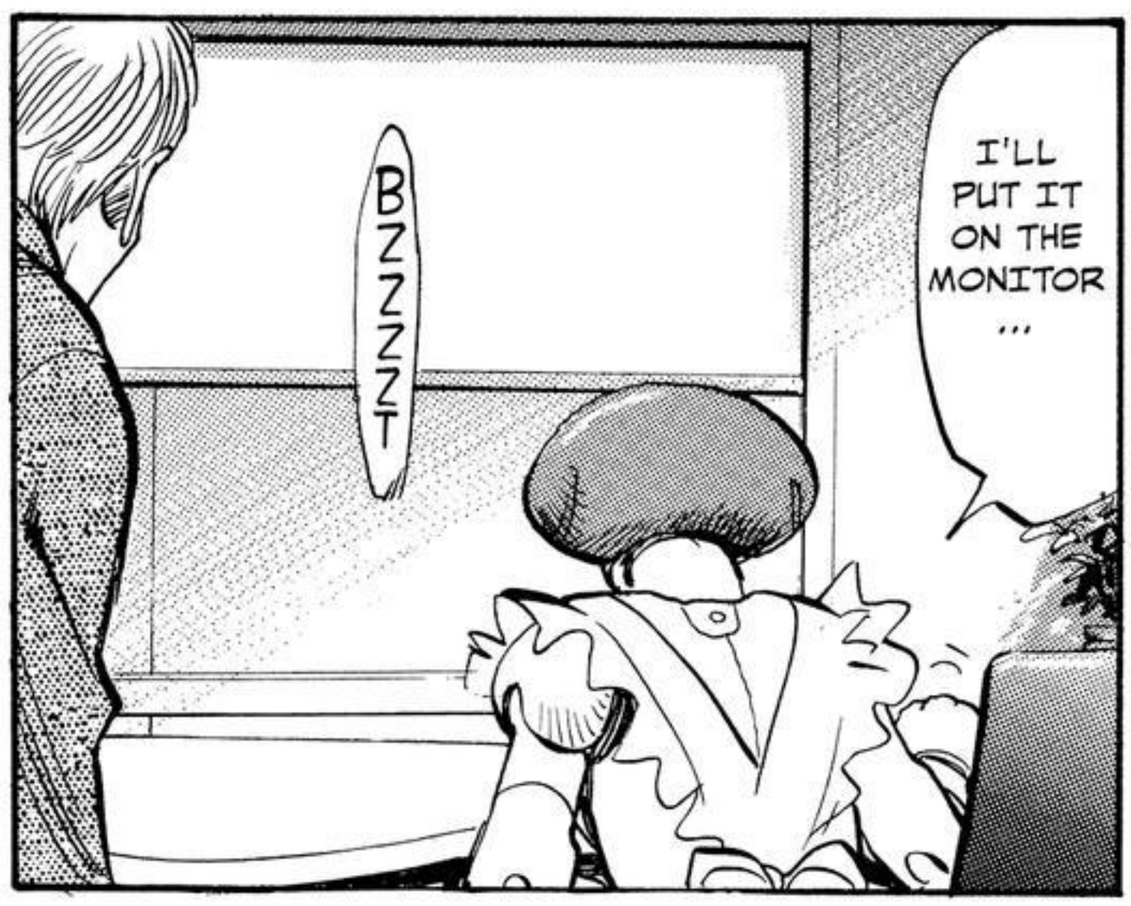
I'M GOING TO REMOVE THE CHIP!
LET'S STOP THIS!

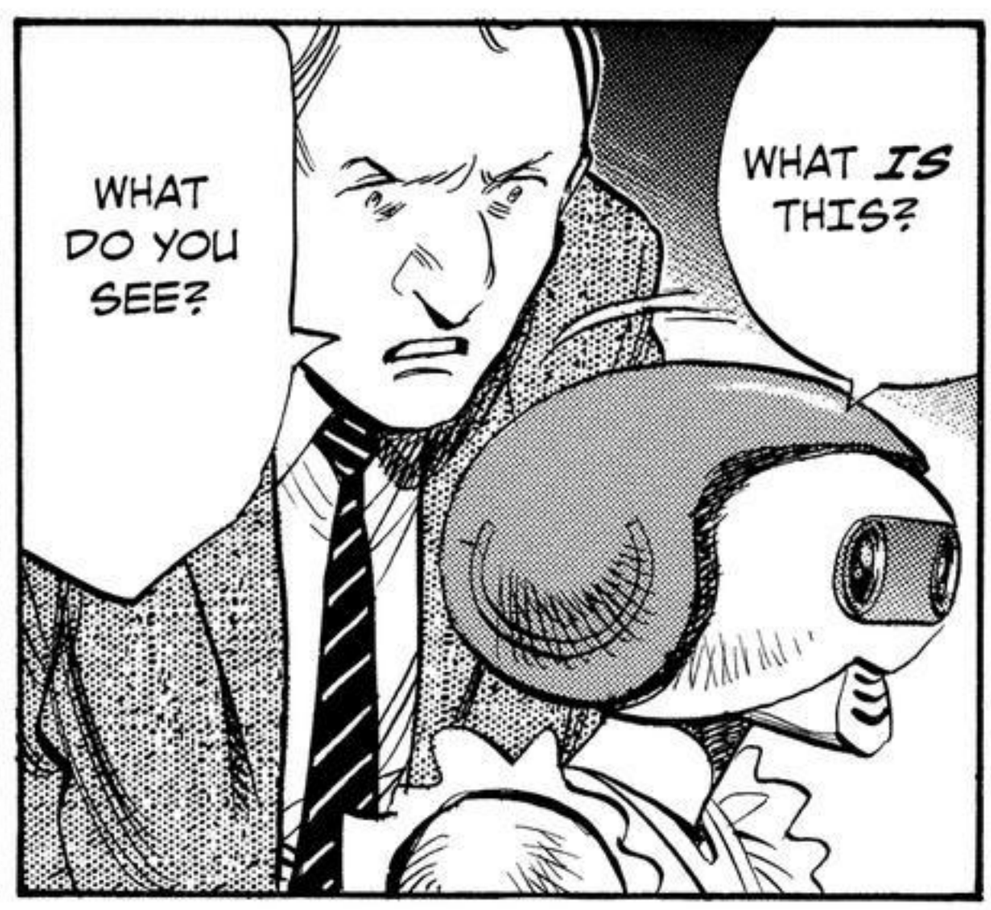

YOUR HUSBAND'S FINAL MEMORIES ARE IN THERE! WE SHOULD DISCONNECT!
AH...
AGH...

WHAT COULD IT BE ...?

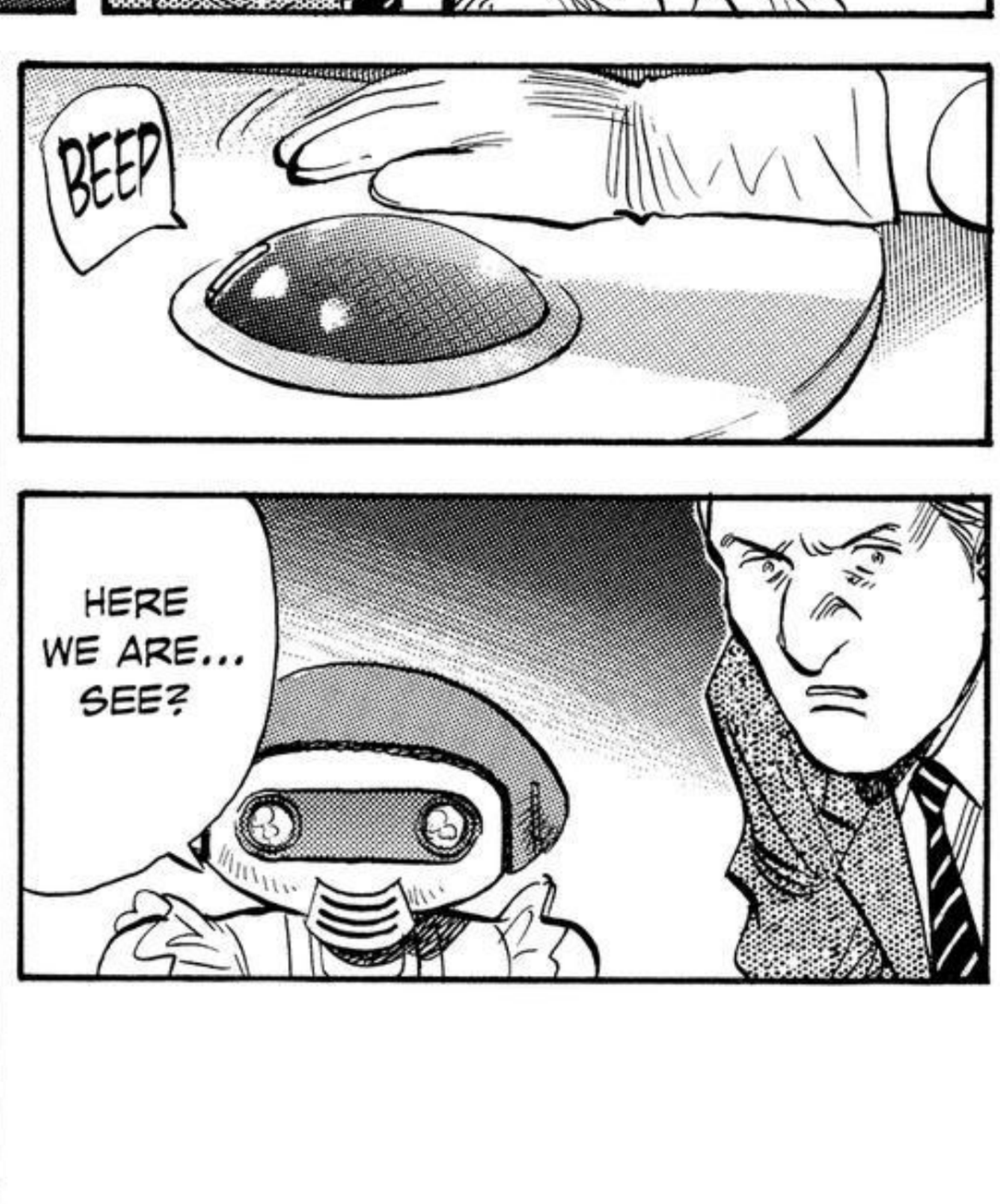

?
...


WHAT COULD *WHAT* BE?


BZZZT
I'LL PUT IT ON THE MONITOR ...


WHAT DO YOU SEE?
WHAT *IS* THIS?

POLIZEI


BEEP
HERE WE ARE... SEE?

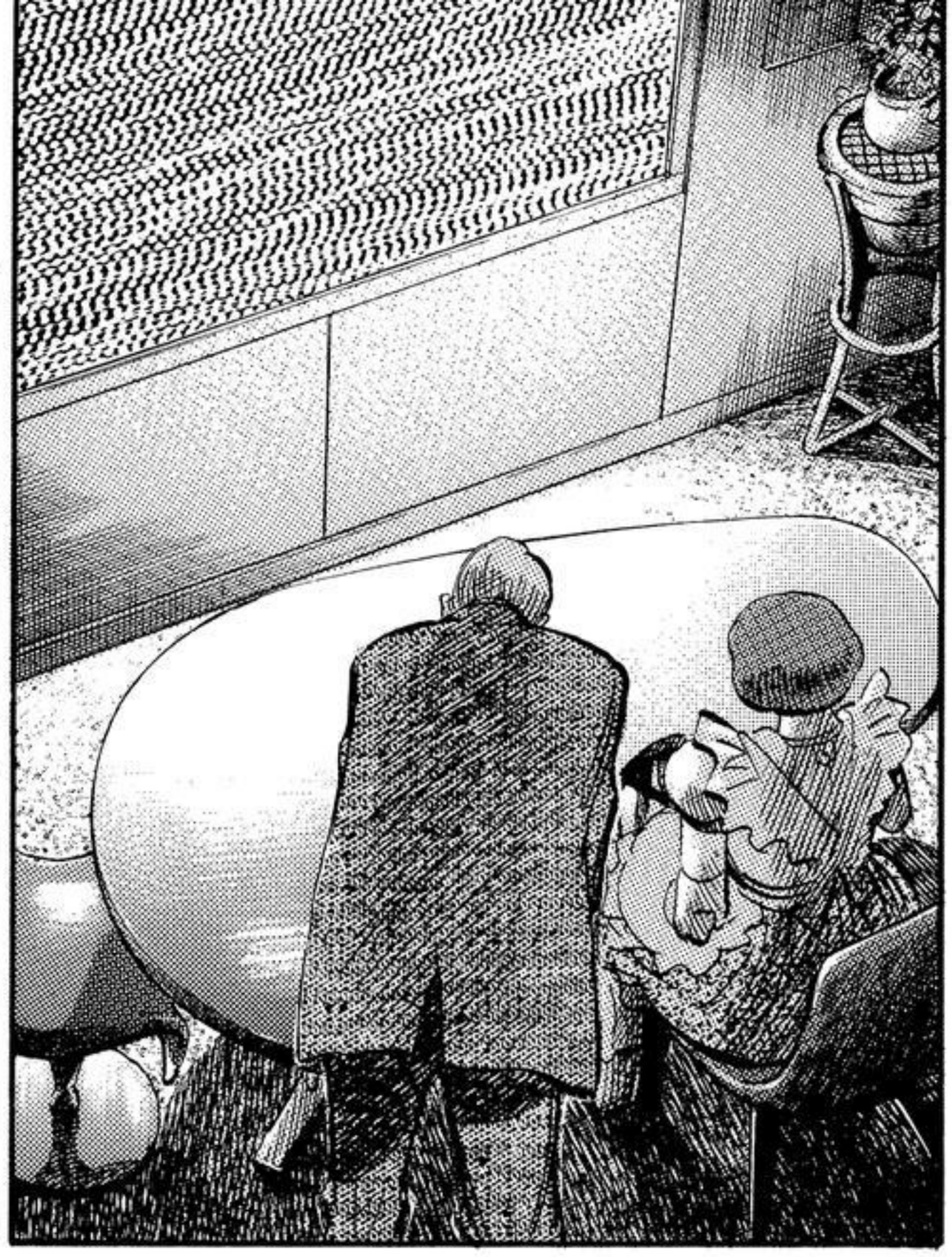
THAT'S THE SUSPECT! ROBBY'S PARTNER IS TELLING HIM TO GET OUT OF THE CAR...

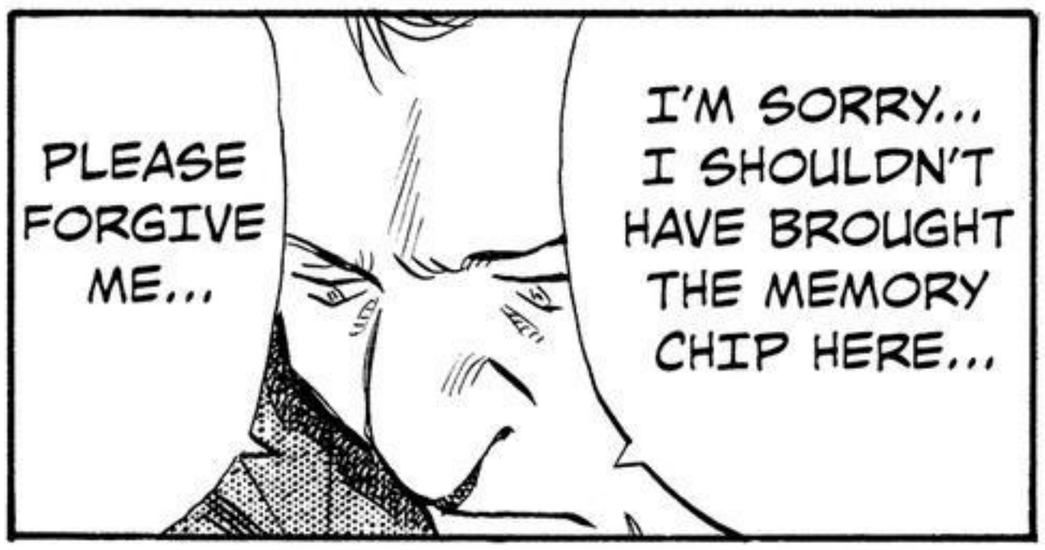
POLIZEI

THERE'S ROBBY AND HIS PARTNER STOPPING THE CAR AT THE CHECKPOINT...

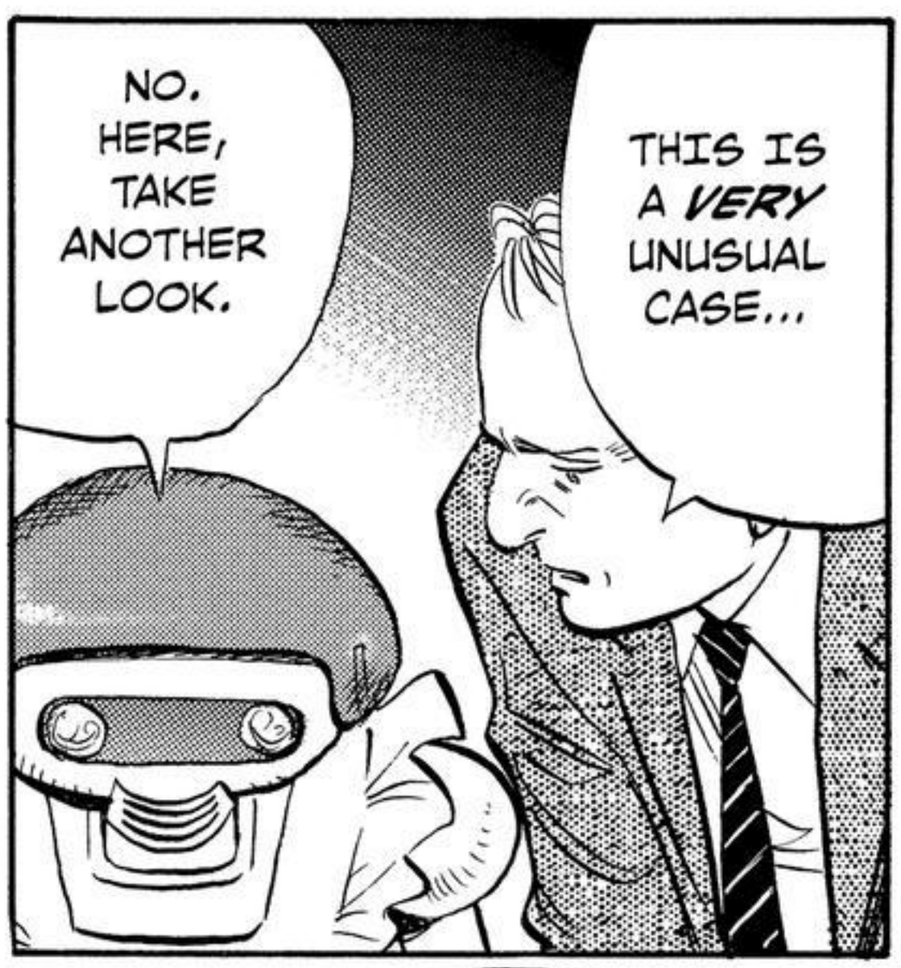
UH-OH...

!!




PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
I'M SORRY... I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THE MEMORY CHIP HERE...

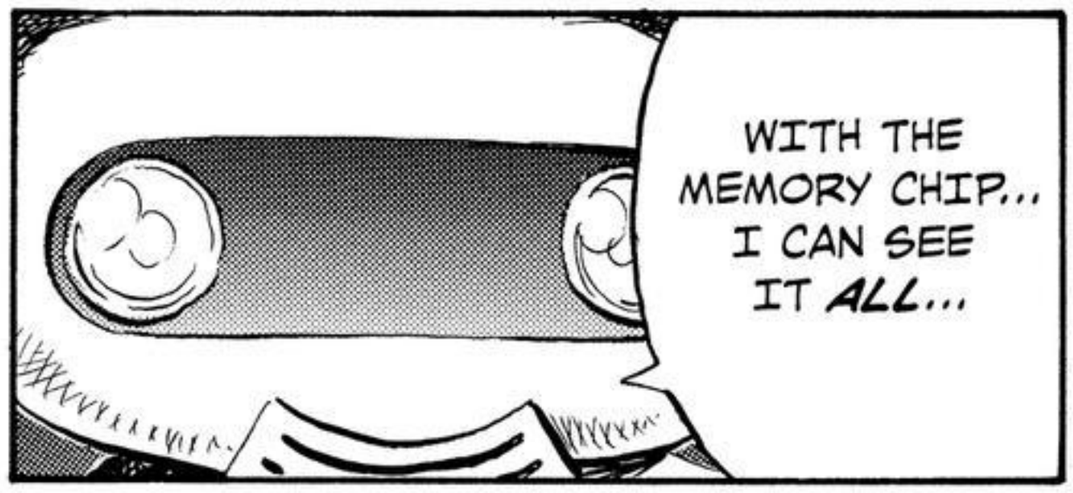
?
NO. THAT'S NOT IT...

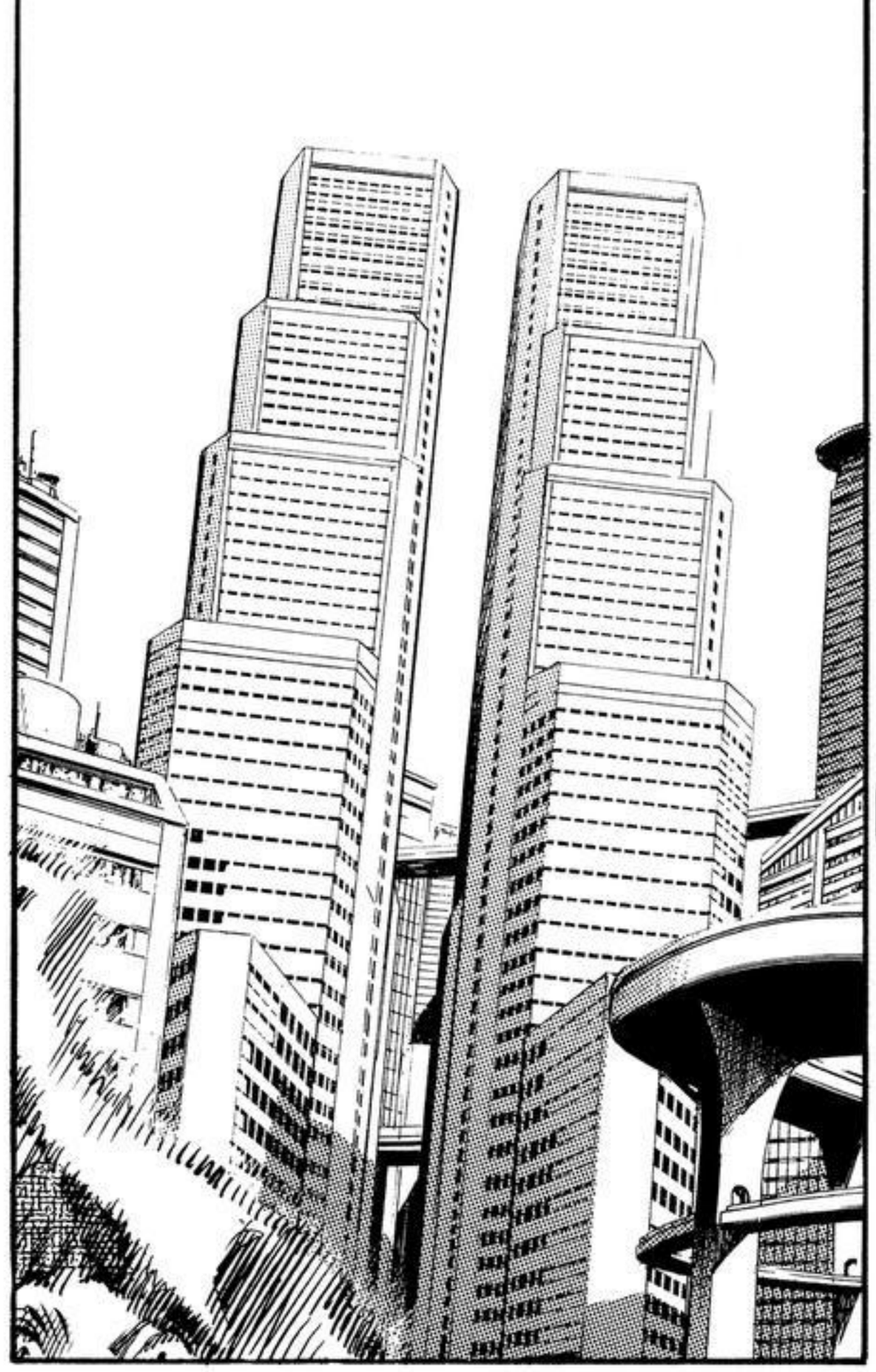

NO. HERE, TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.
THIS IS A *VERY* UNUSUAL CASE...

YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S ODD THAT YOUR HUSBAND, A PATROL-BOT, COULD HAVE BEEN ATTACKED SO EASILY...!

MY HUSBAND REACTED INSTANTLY. HE EVEN HAD HIS STUN GUN OUT.

HIS PARTNER WAS ATTACKED HERE...

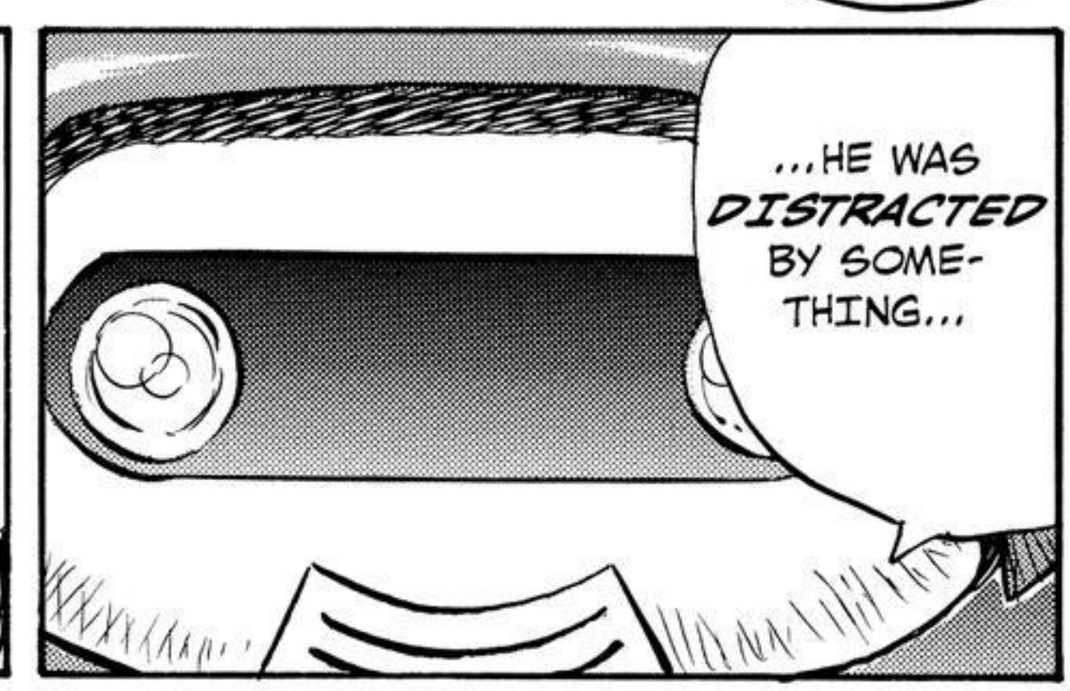

WITH THE MEMORY CHIP... I CAN SEE IT *ALL*...

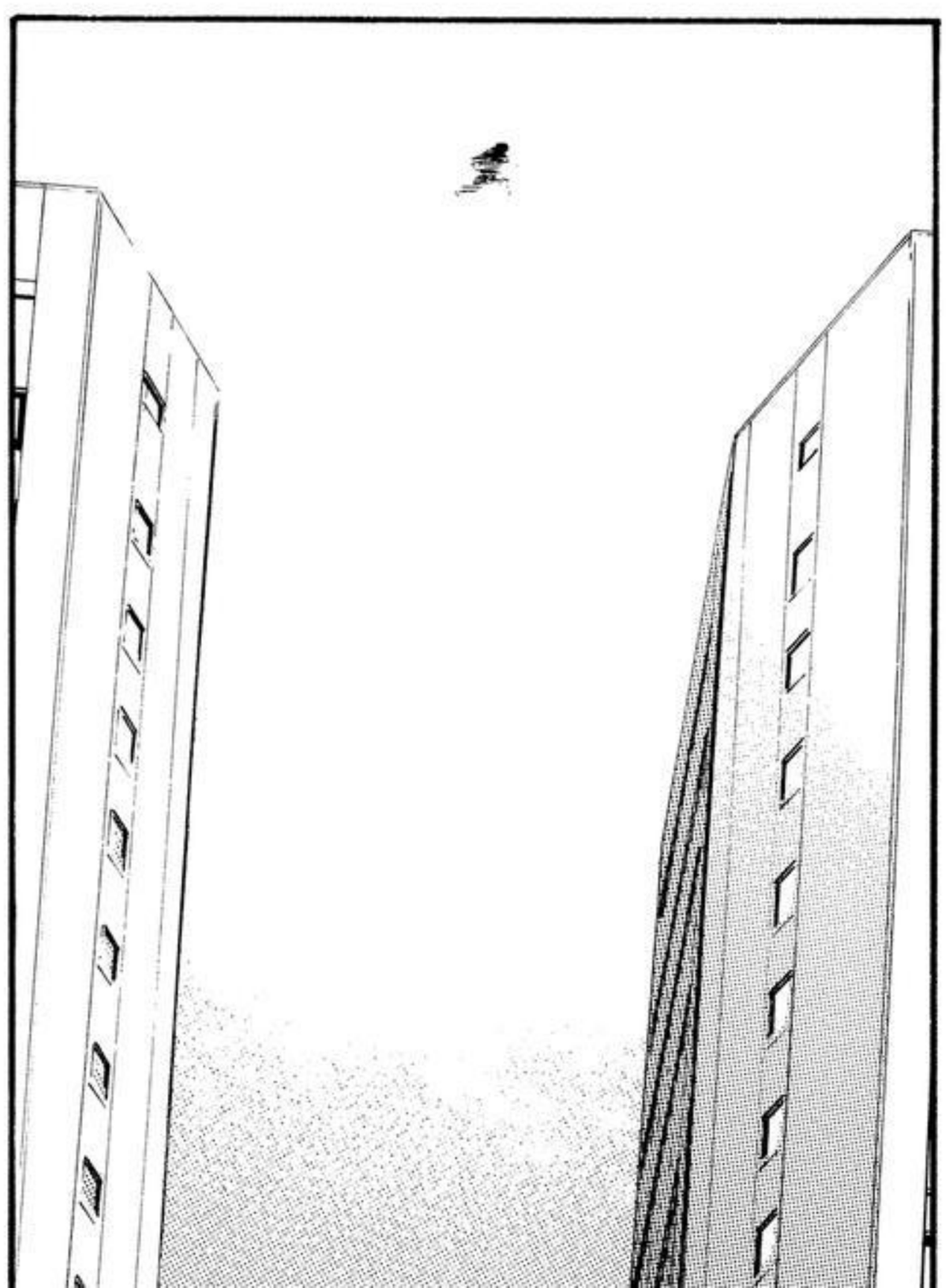


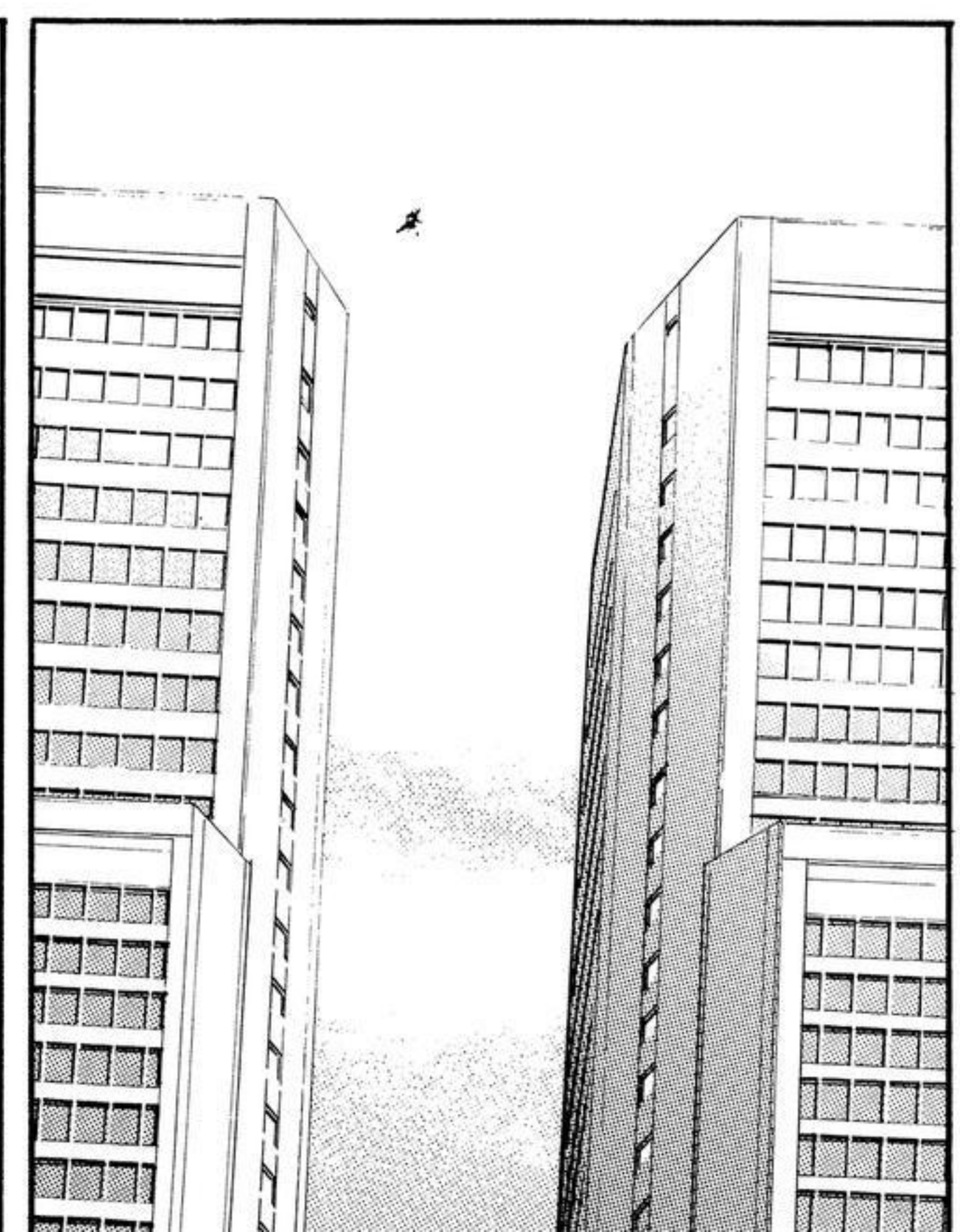
BUT THEN, FOR A FRACTION OF A SECOND...

AND ROBBY IS ENTIRELY FOCUSED ON THE SUSPECT...

THAT'S THE APARTMENT BLOCK WHERE LANKE WAS MURDERED...
WAIT A MINUTE ...

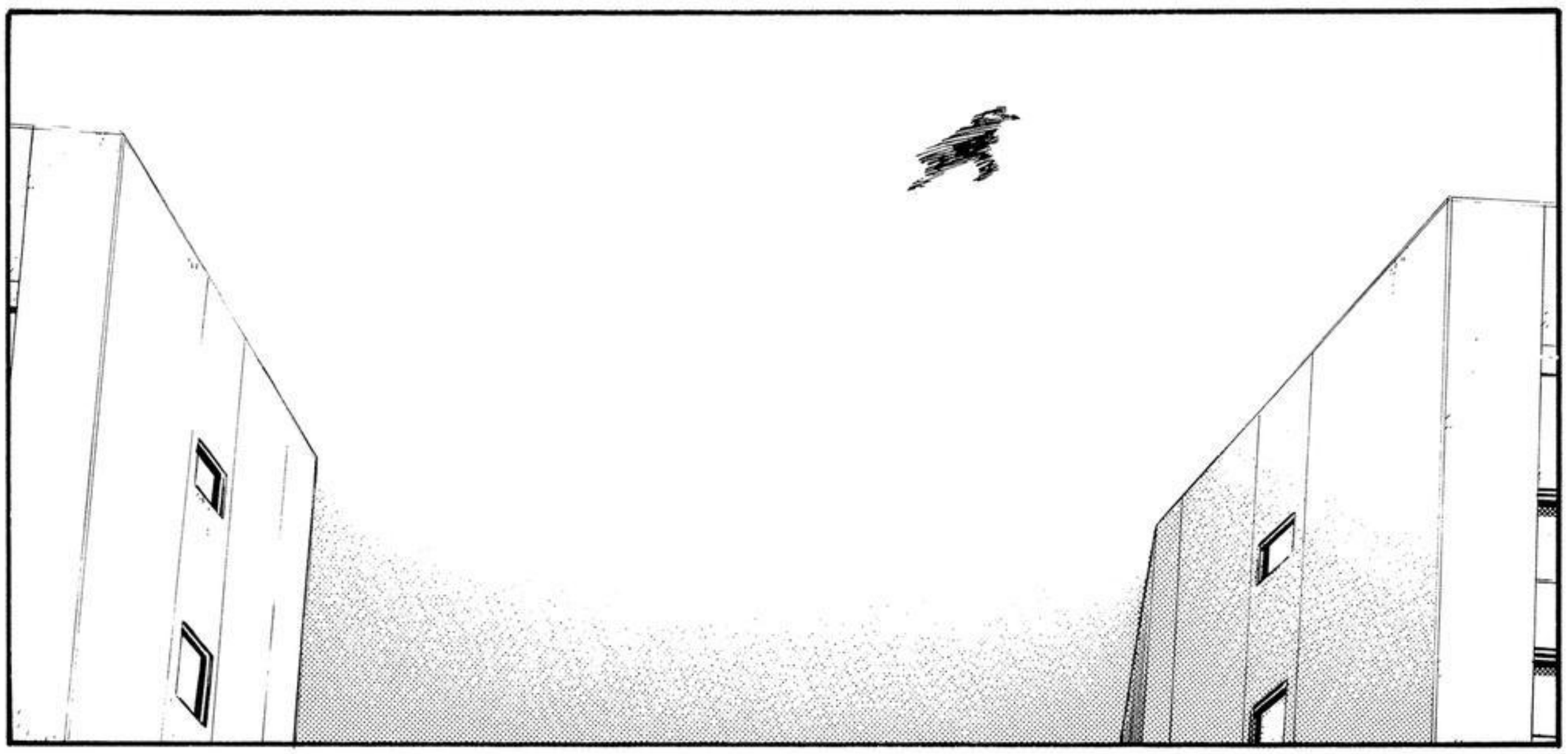

...HE WAS *DISTRACTED* BY SOME-THING...

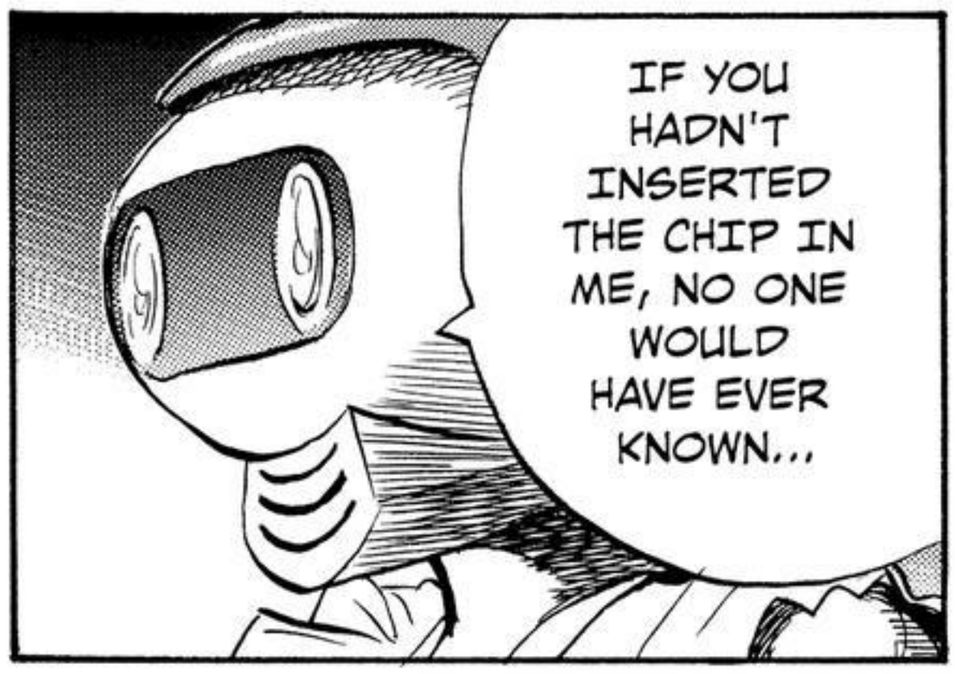


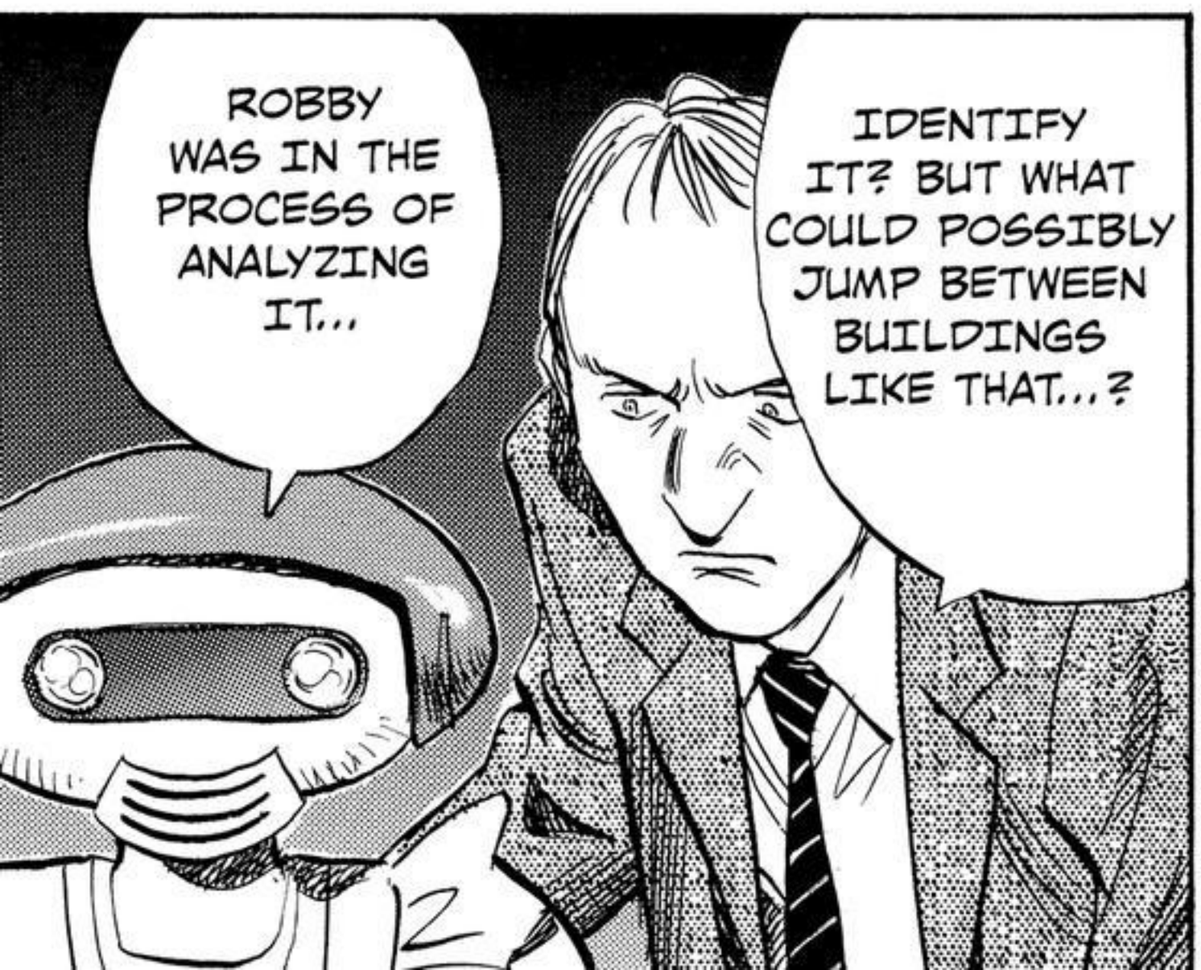


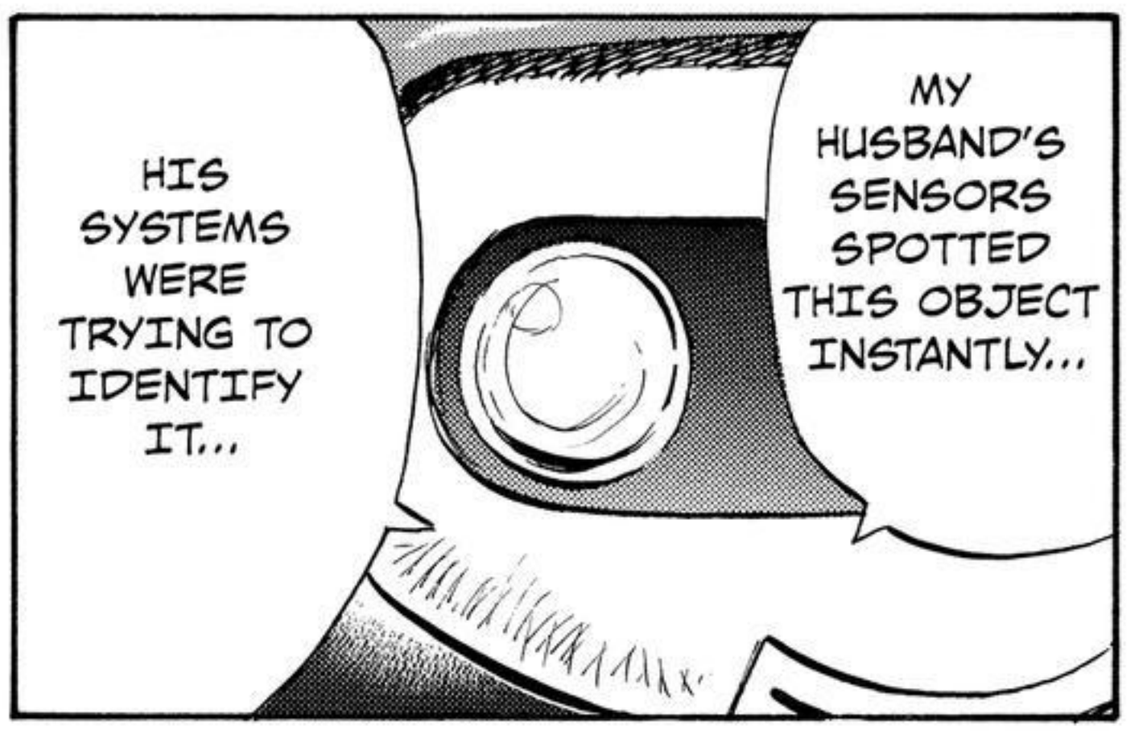
I'LL ZOOM IN...

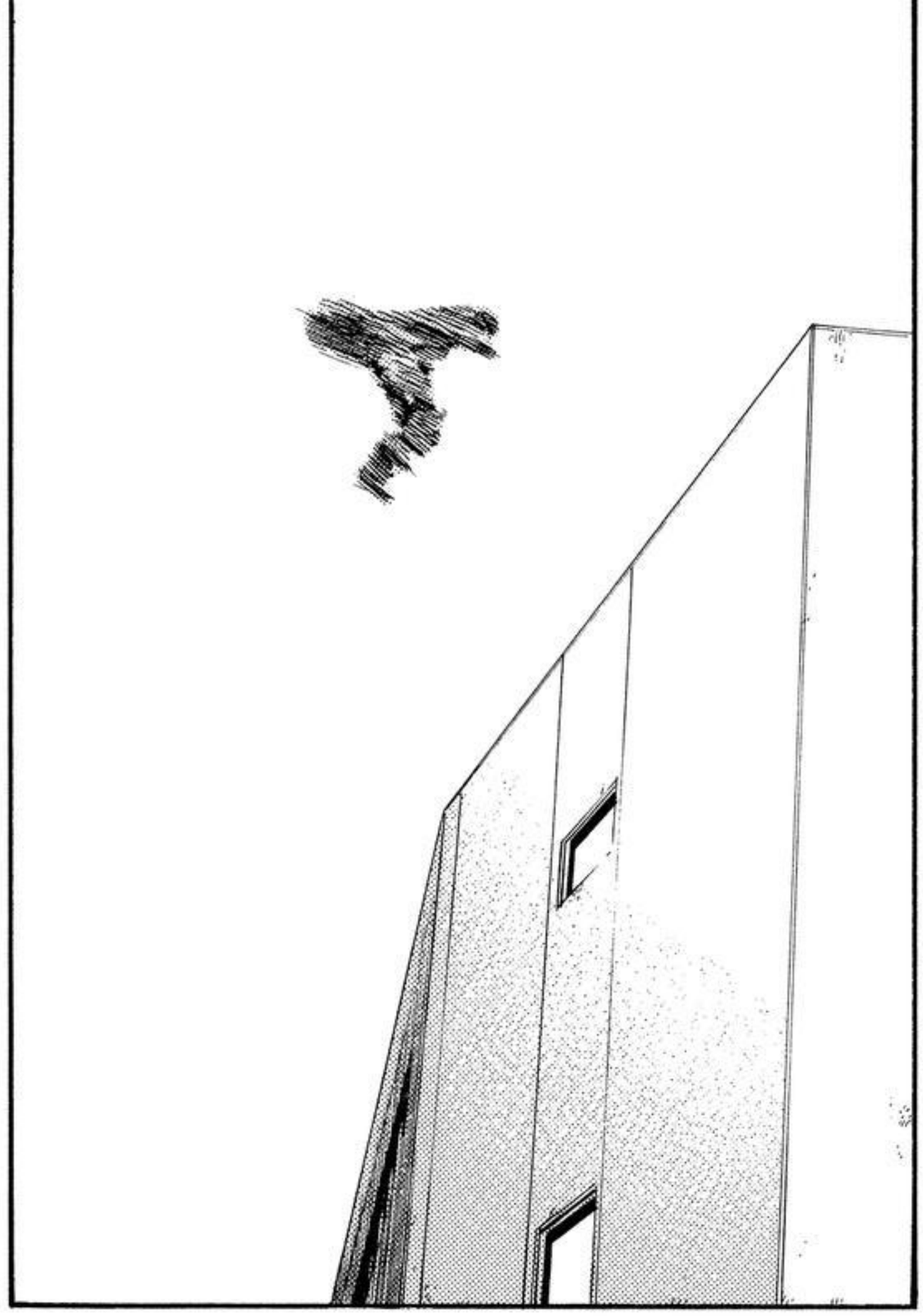
WHAT WAS THAT?!

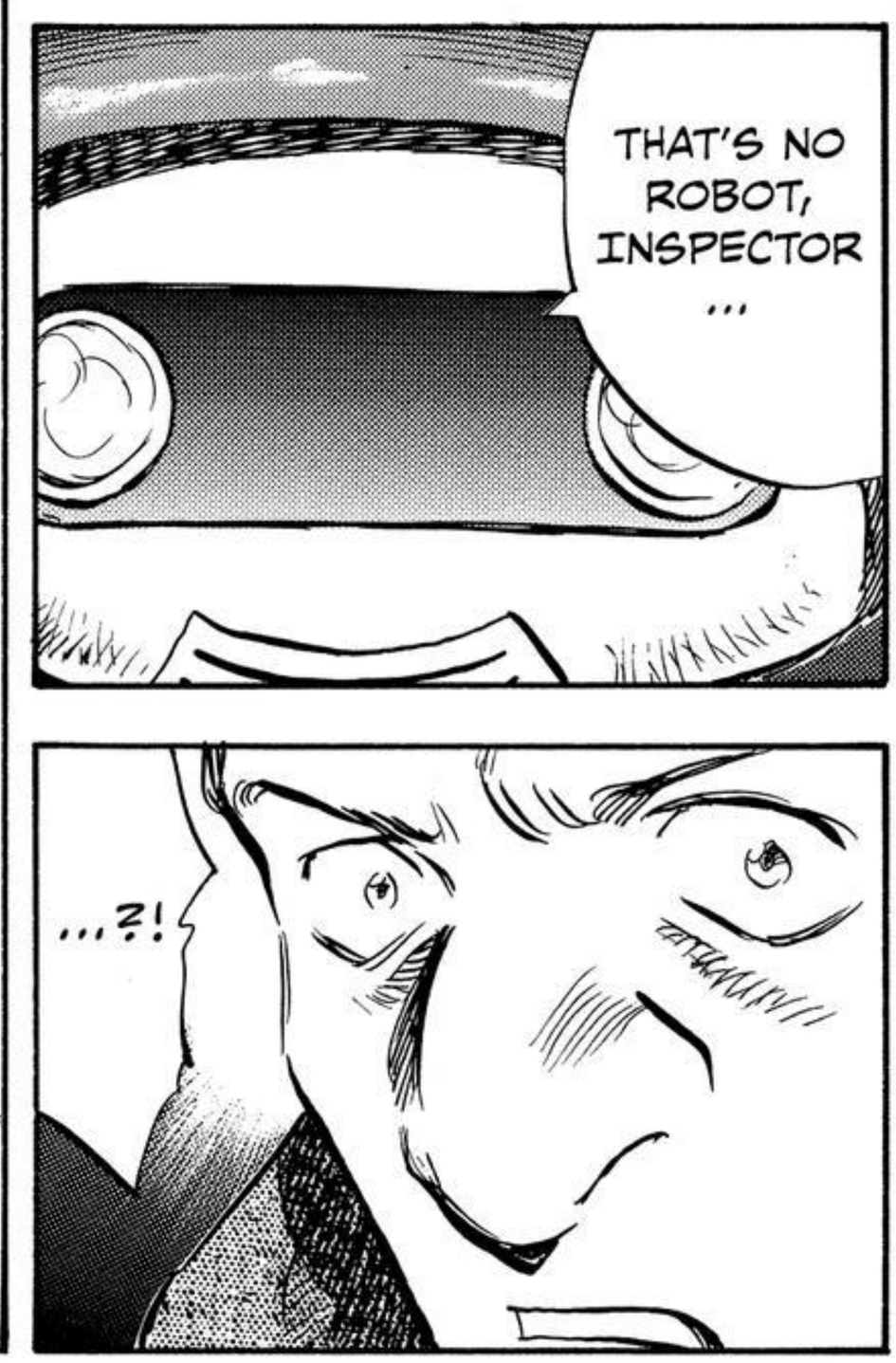


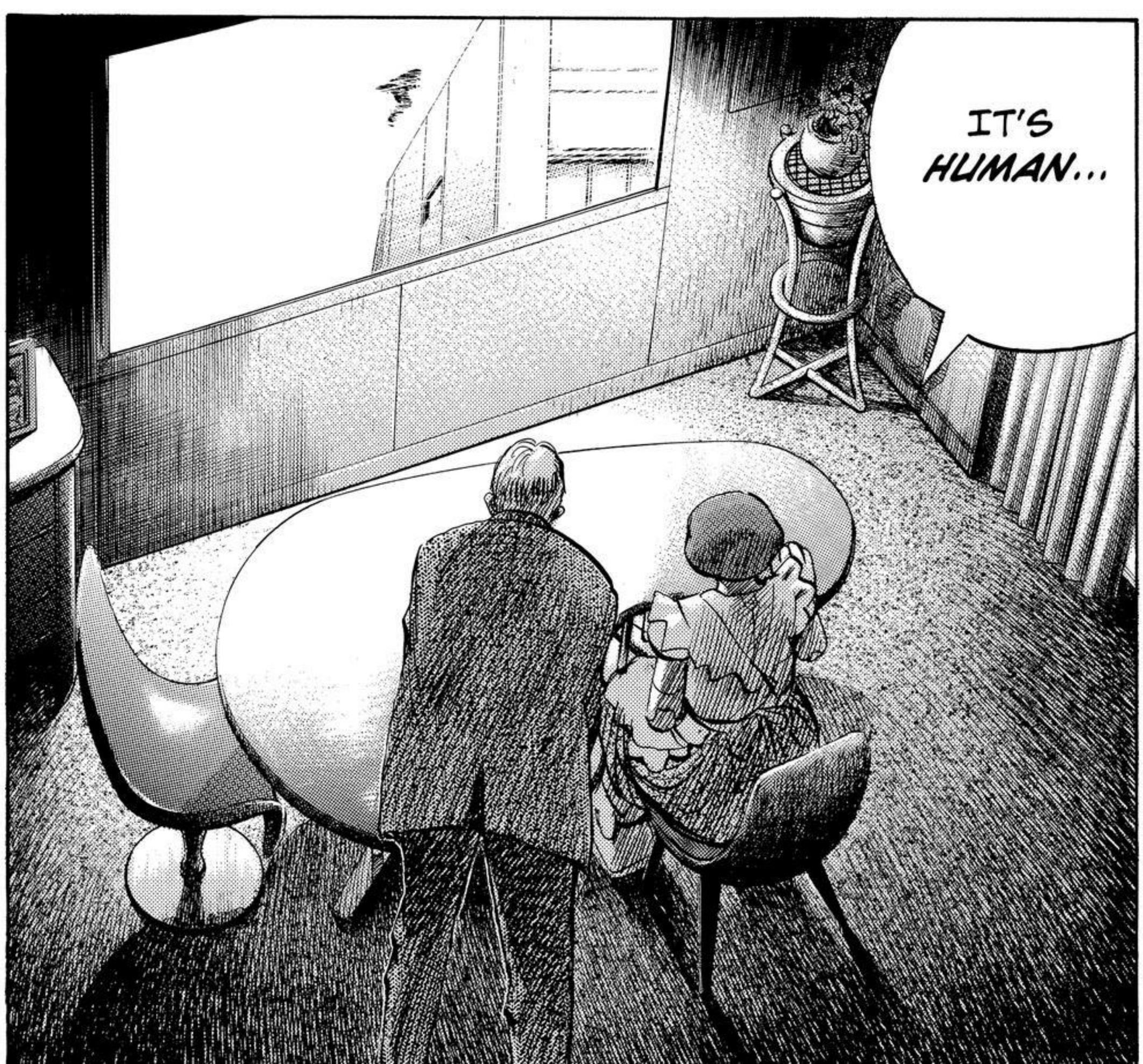









THAT'S NO ROBOT, INSPECTOR ...
...?!


IT'S HUMAN...

Act 3 BRAU 1589

...HE SAW SOMETHING JUMP BETWEEN TWO BUILDINGS...

JUST BEFORE PATROL-BOT ROBBY WAS DESTROYED...

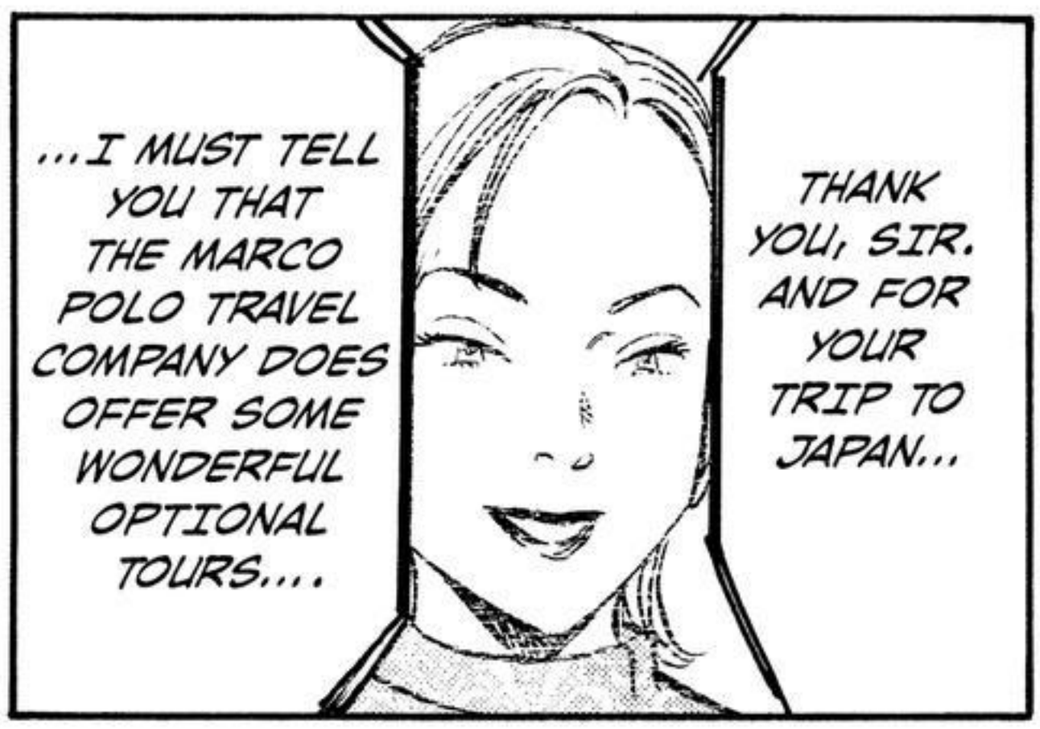
UMM... HELLO, SIR?

OH... ER... SORRY ...

AND IT APPEARED TO BE HUMAN...

YES, SURE, IT'S FINE... GO AHEAD AND BOOK IT...
OH...

I NEED YOU TO CONFIRM THAT THE ITINERARY I'VE PUT TOGETHER FOR YOU IS CORRECT...

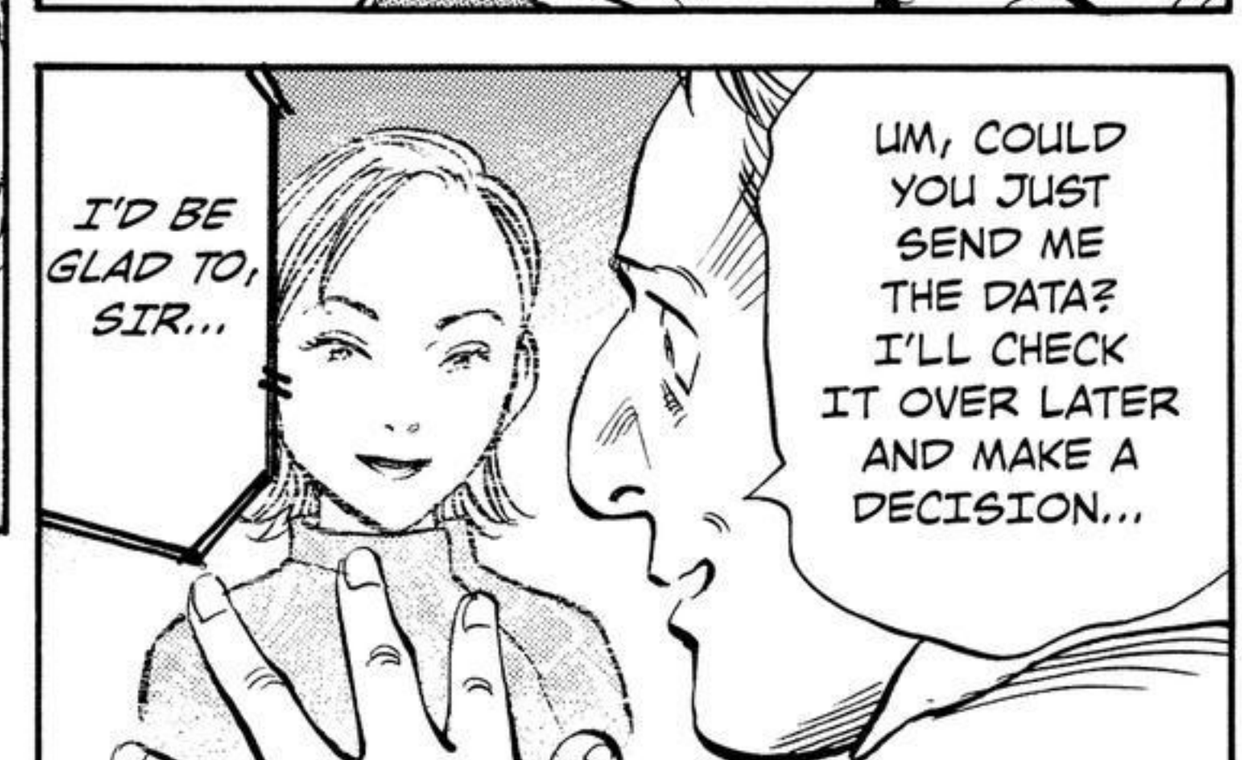

...I MUST TELL YOU THAT THE MARCO POLO TRAVEL COMPANY DOES OFFER SOME WONDERFUL OPTIONAL TOURS....
THANK YOU, SIR. AND FOR YOUR TRIP TO JAPAN...

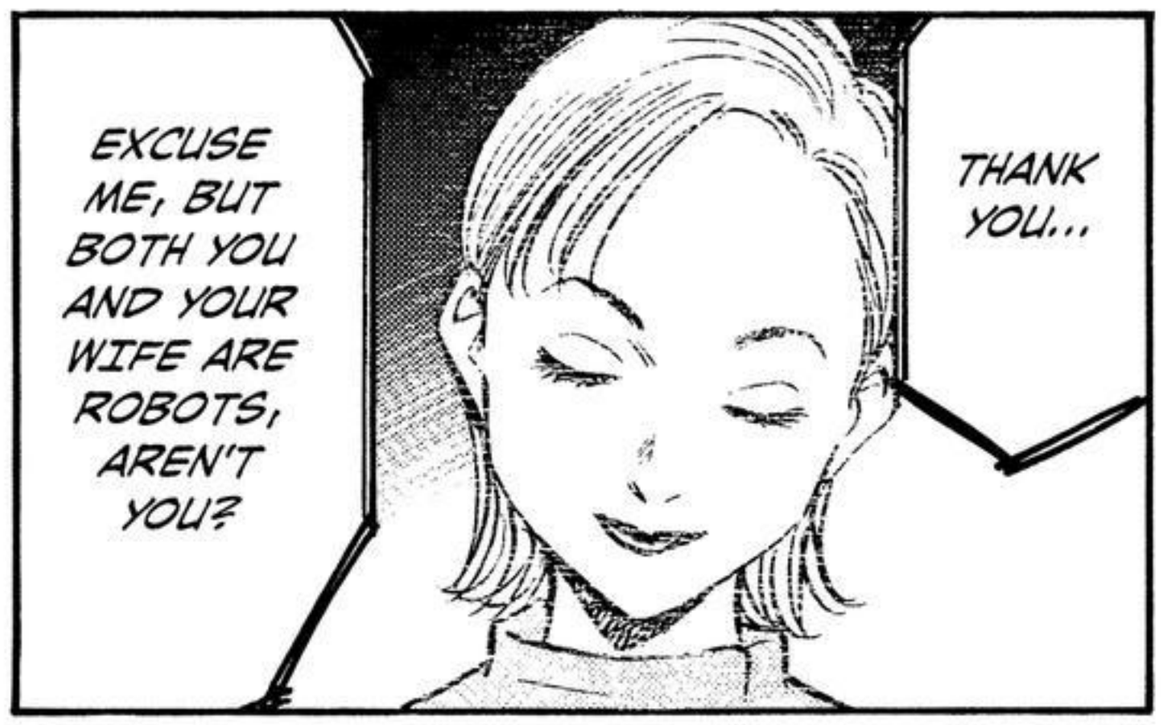
WE RECOMMEND.. SIGHTSEEING IN ASAKUSA, A DAY IN KYOTO, A KABUKI SHOW, AND THE FANTASY SAMURAI EXPERIENCE IN OLD EDO...
OPTIONAL TOURS? HMM...

FIRST TRIP?

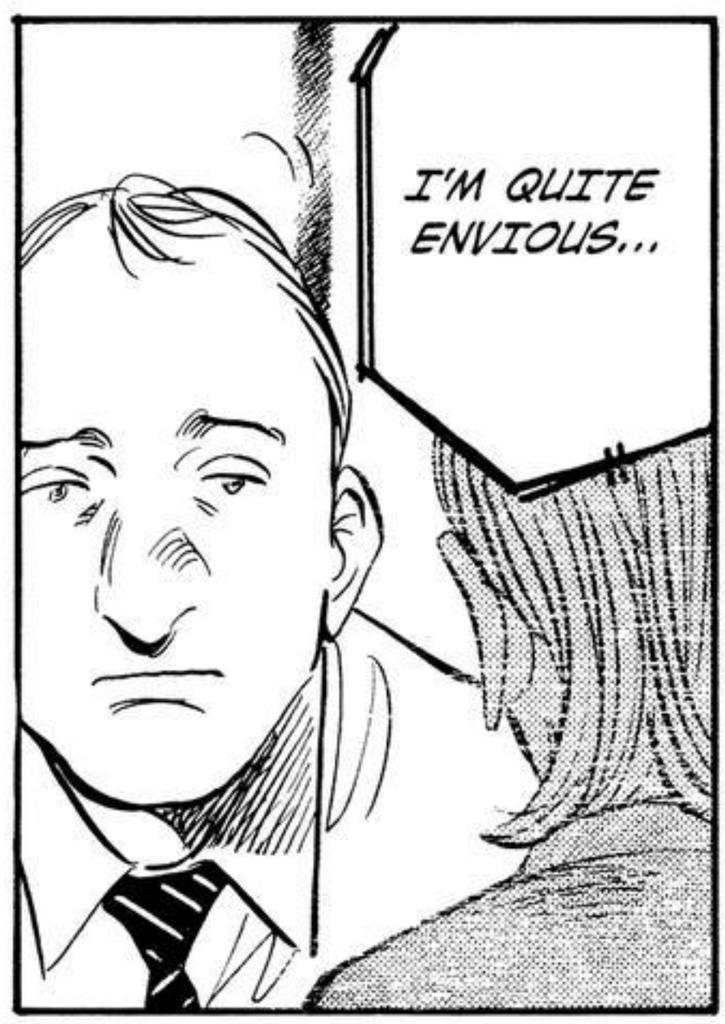
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, BUT WILL THIS BE YOUR FIRST TRIP TO JAPAN?

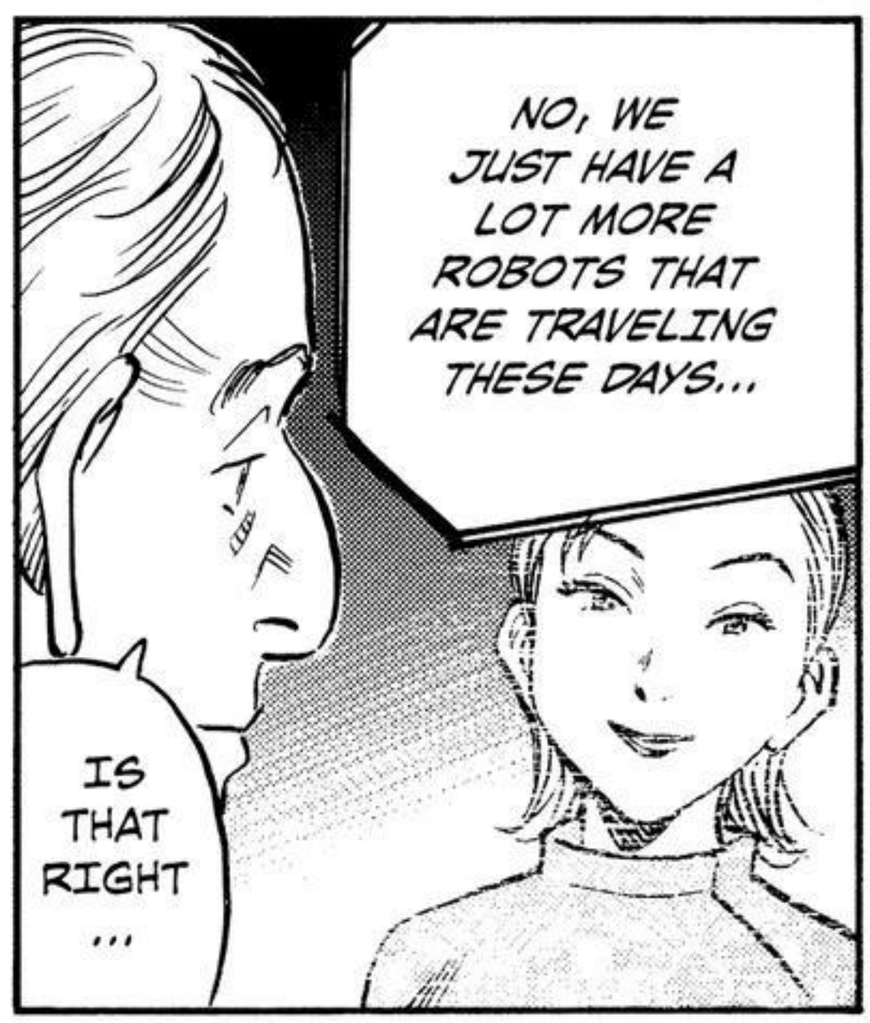
WE ALSO HAVE A SAMURAI DUEL AT GANRYU ISLAND TOUR AND A VIRTUAL HARA KIRI SHOW...
HMM...


I'D BE GLAD TO, SIR...
UM, COULD YOU JUST SEND ME THE DATA? I'LL CHECK IT OVER LATER AND MAKE A DECISION...


EXCUSE ME, BUT BOTH YOU AND YOUR WIFE ARE ROBOTS, AREN'T YOU?
THANK YOU...

UM, WELL...
OF COURSE, YES, IT'S MY FIRST TIME...

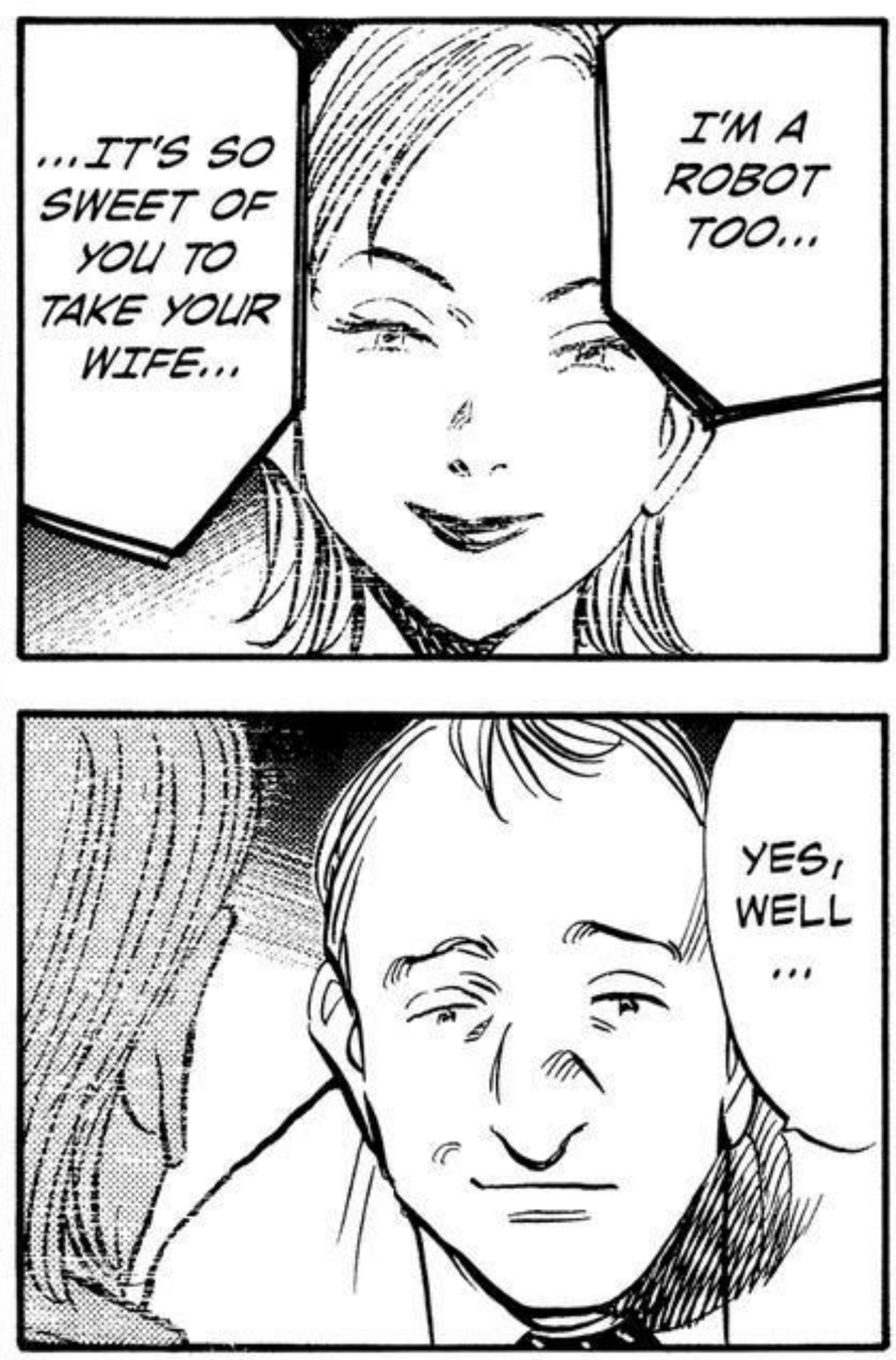

I'M QUITE ENVIOUS...

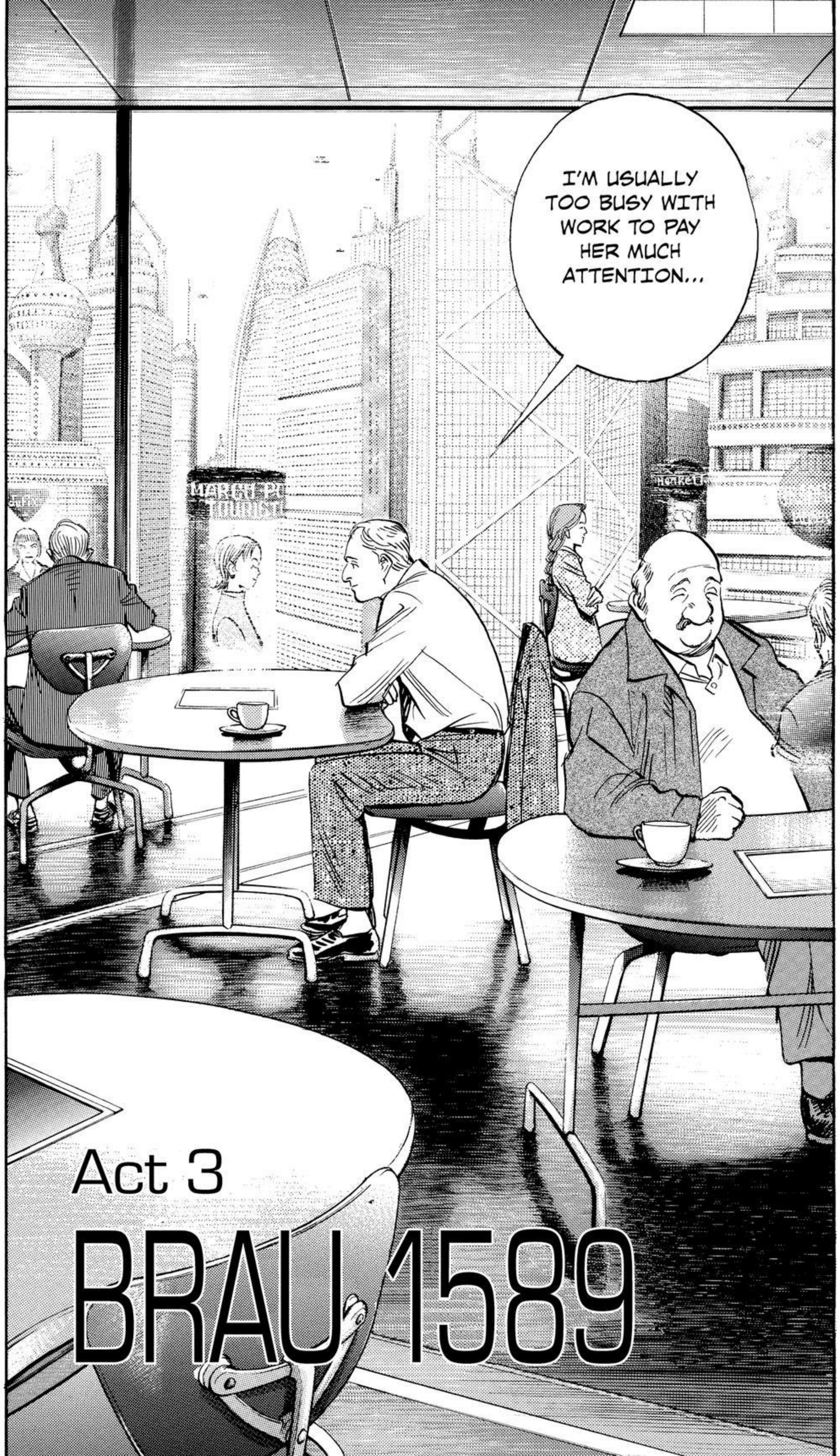

NO, WE JUST HAVE A LOT MORE ROBOTS THAT ARE TRAVELING THESE DAYS...
IS THAT RIGHT ...

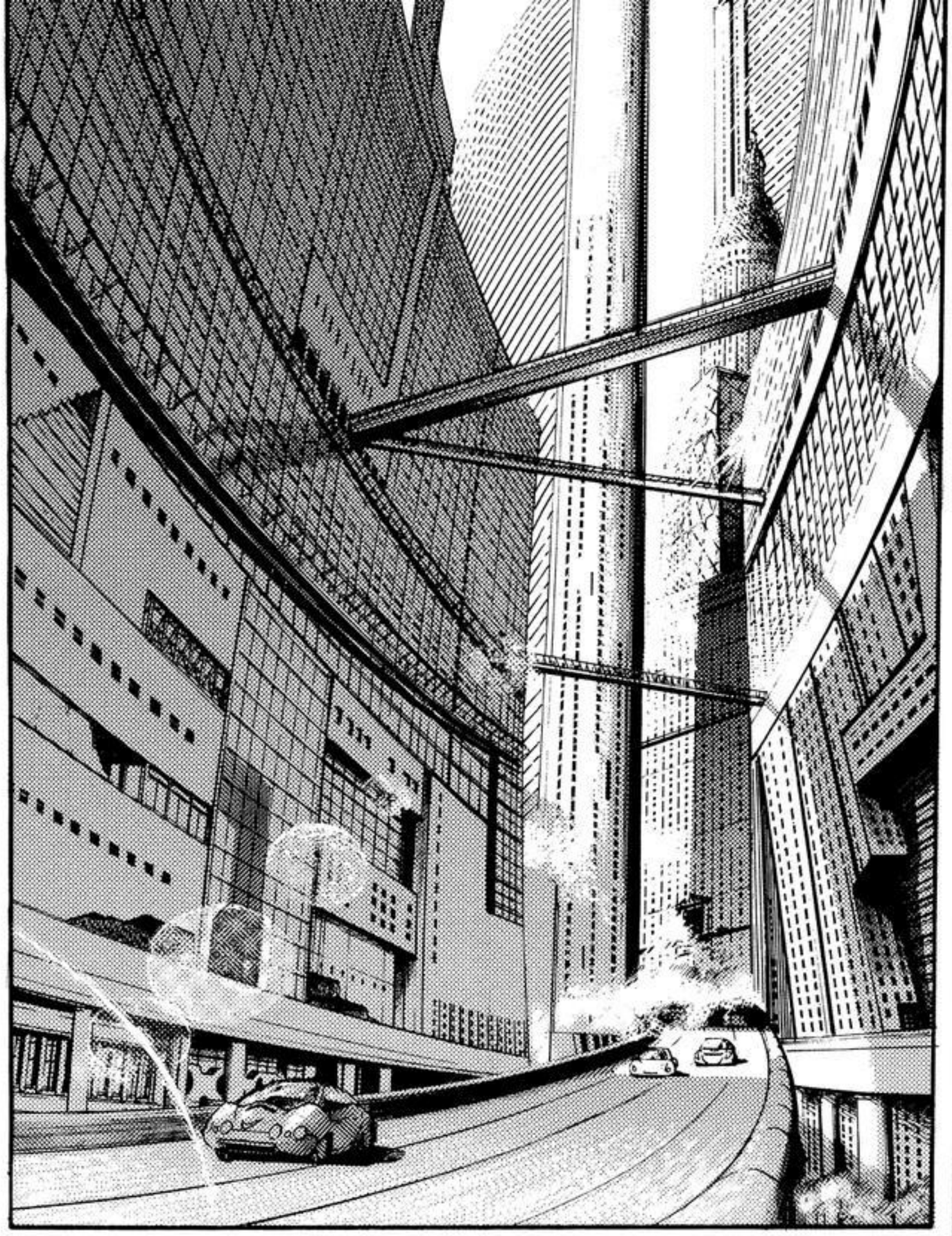
WHY, YES... ANY PROBLEM?

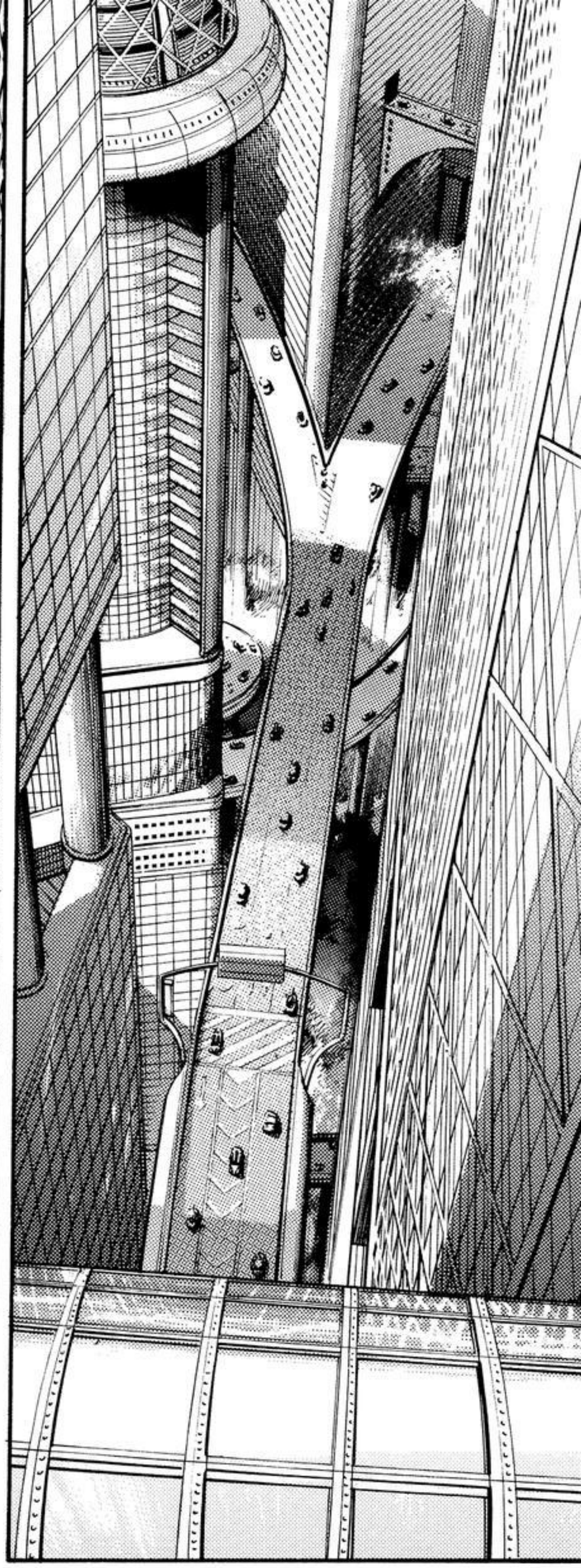
WELL, SHE DESERVES A TRIP... AFTER ALL SHE'S HAD TO PUT UP WITH...

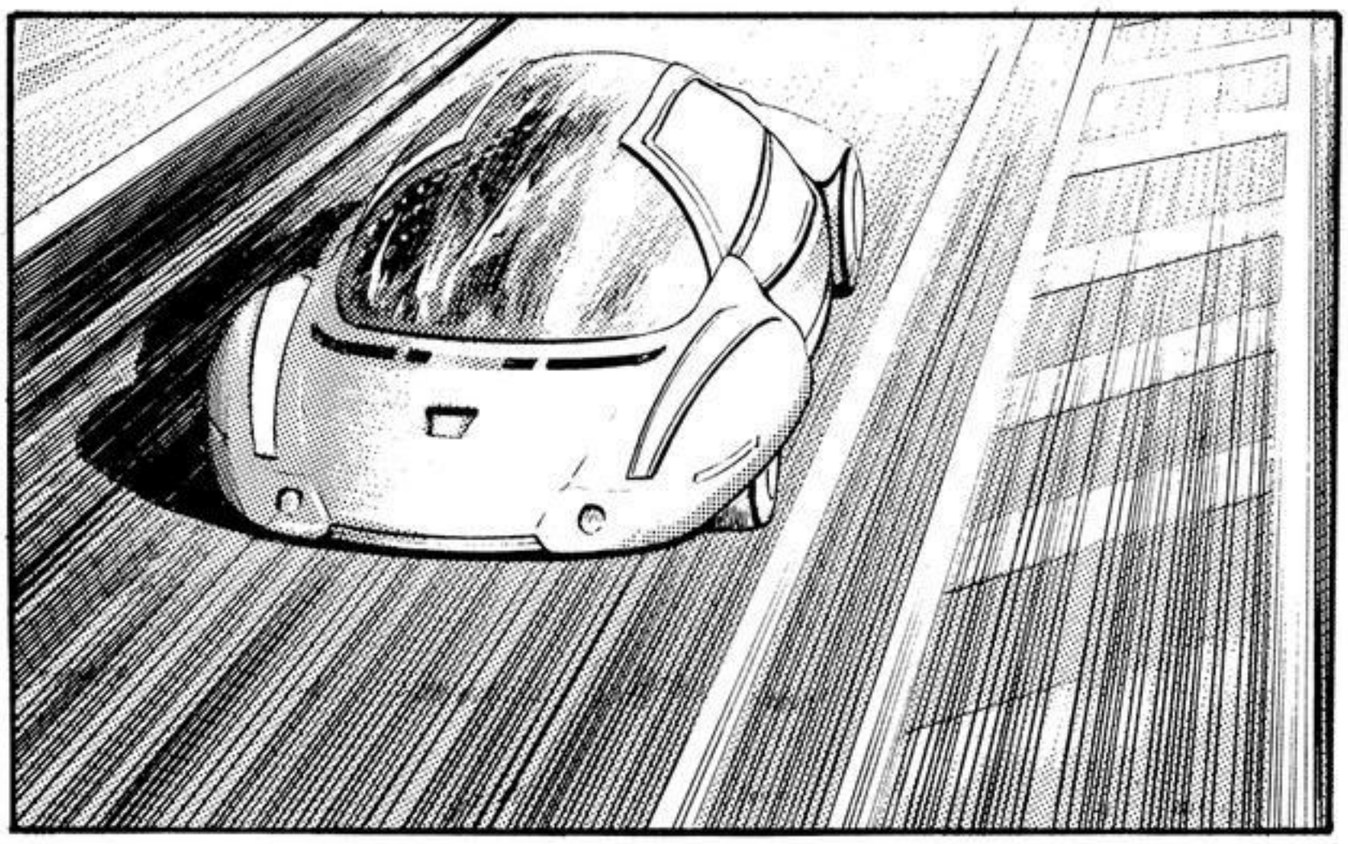
SHE'S LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A KIND HUSBAND...

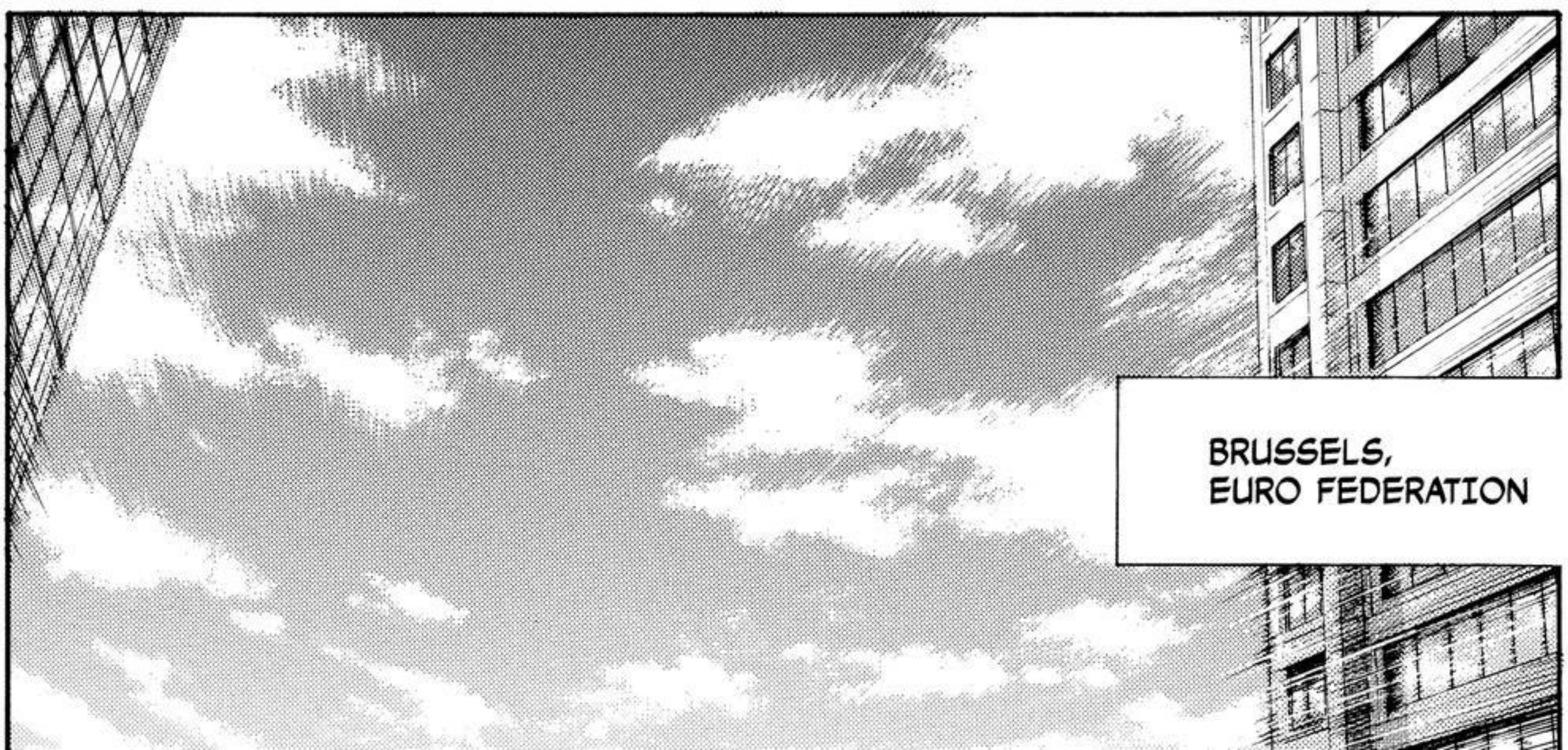

...IT'S SO SWEET OF YOU TO TAKE YOUR WIFE...
I'M A ROBOT TOO...
YES, WELL ...


I'M USUALLY TOO BUSY WITH WORK TO PAY HER MUCH ATTENTION...
Act 3
BRAU 1589

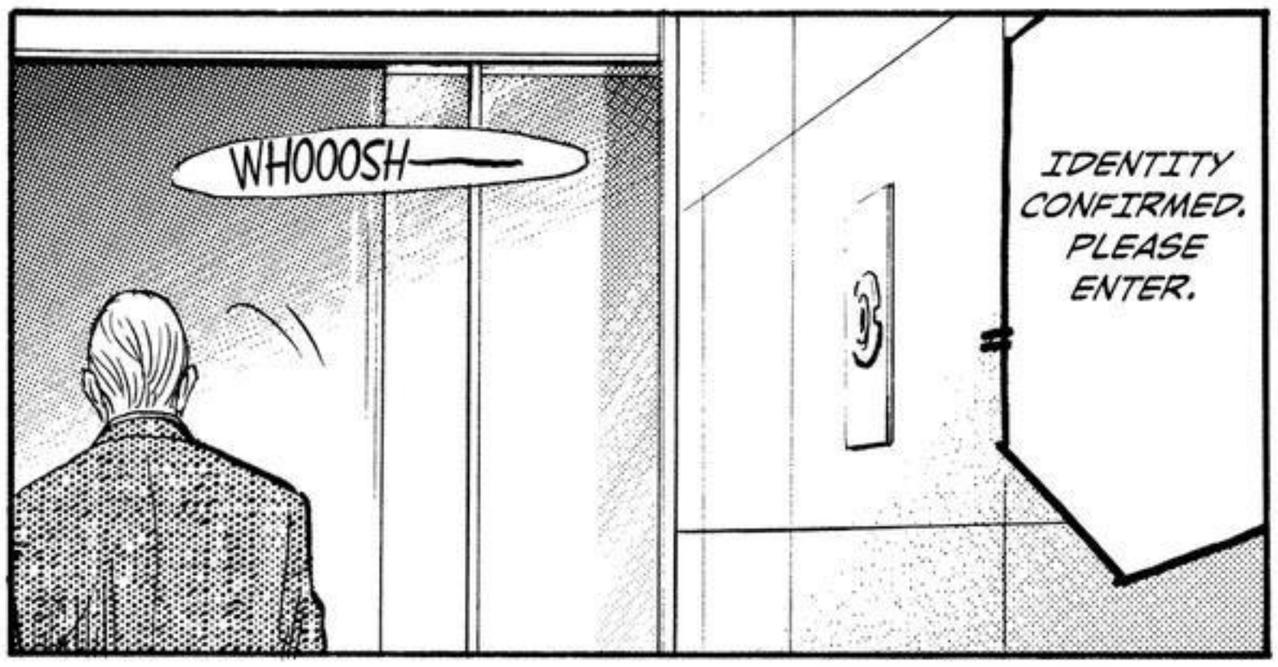


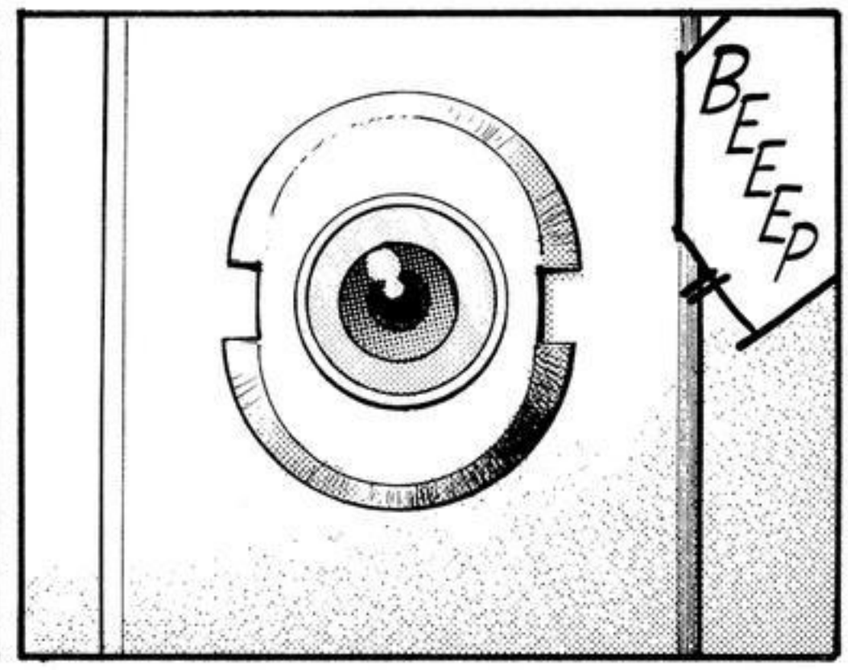


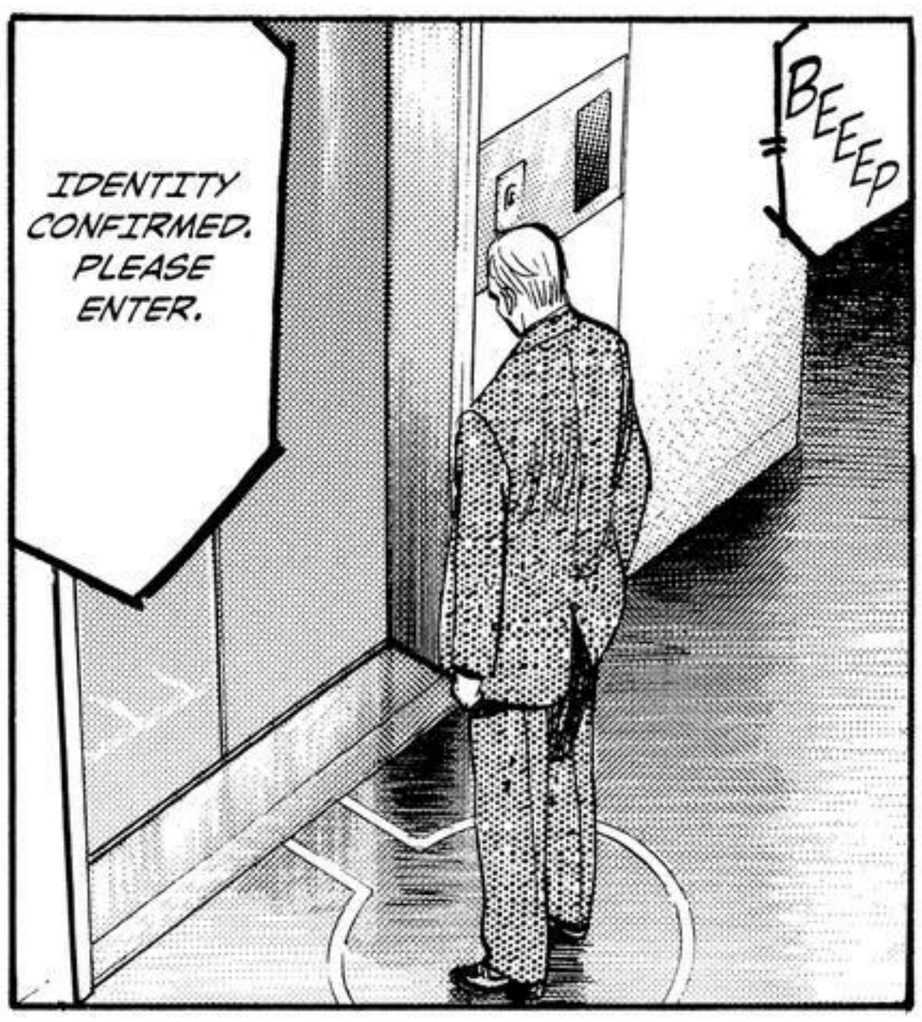



BRUSSELS,
EURO FEDERATION

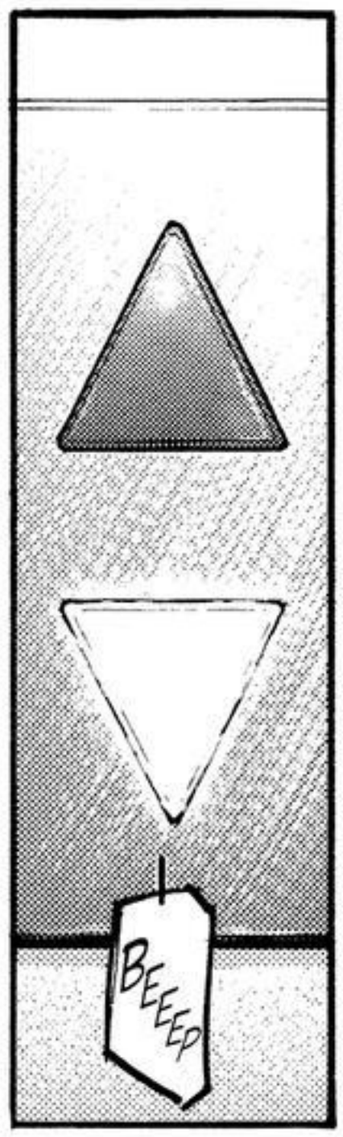
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

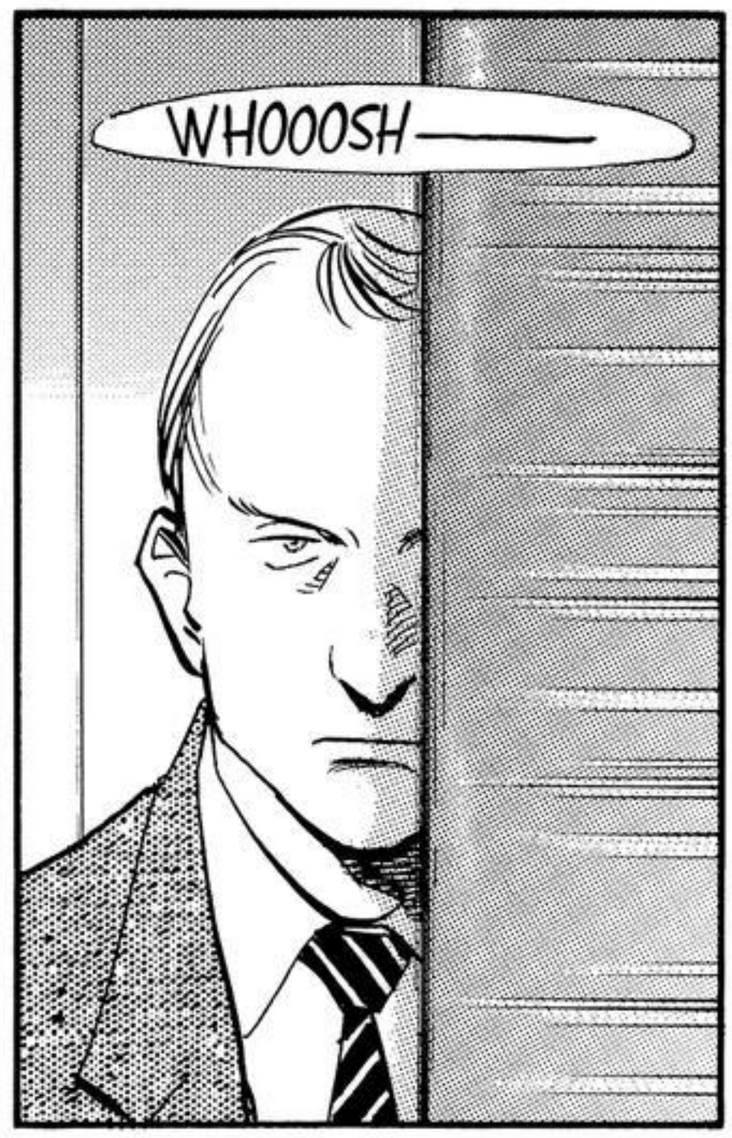


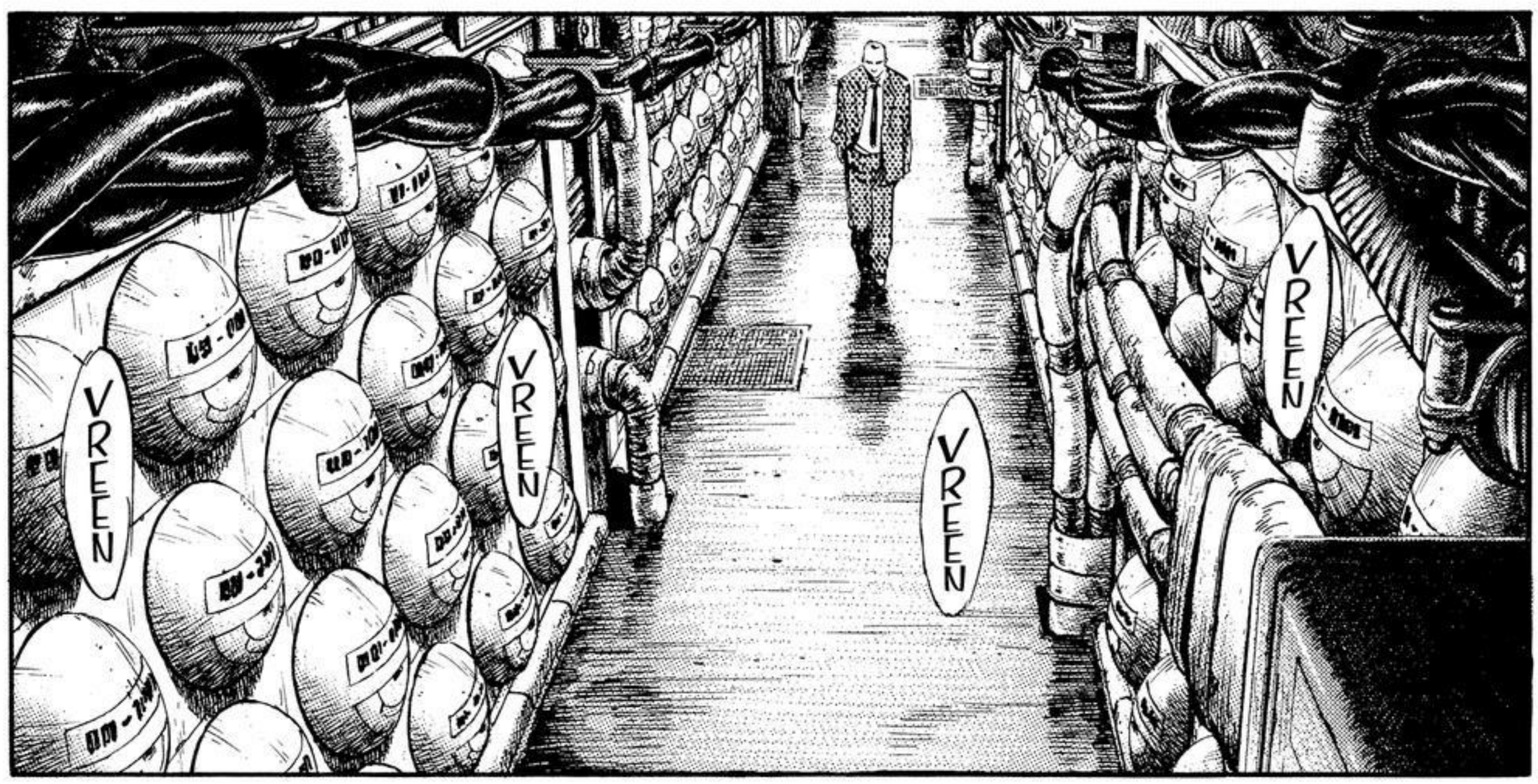


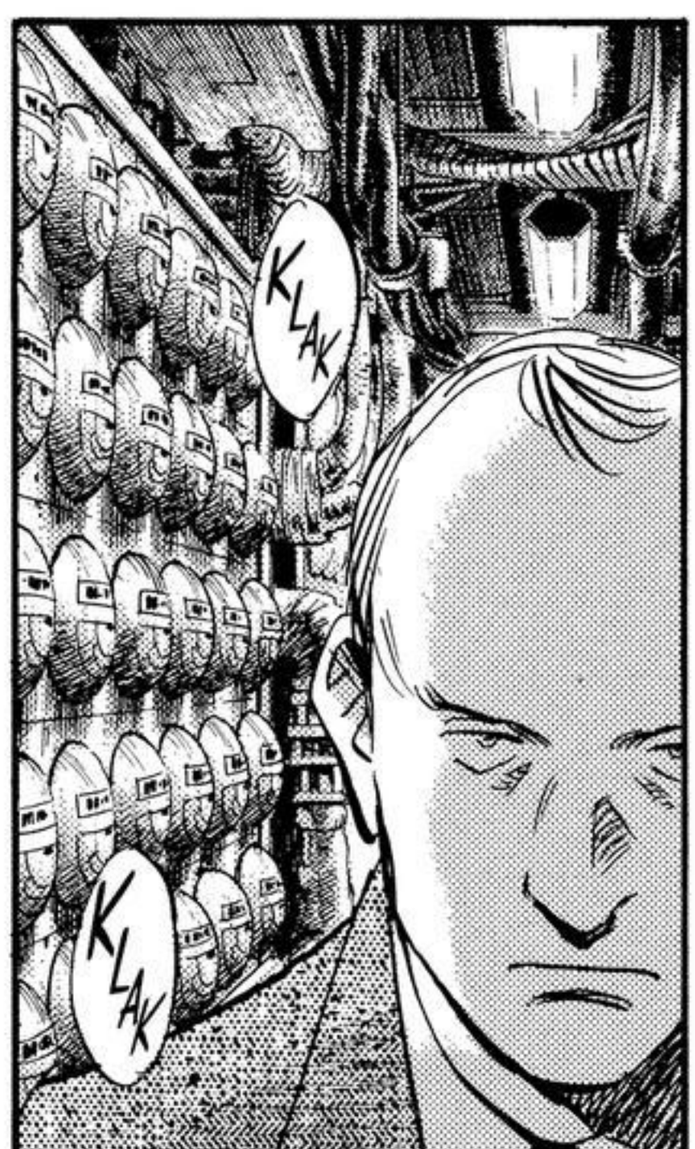


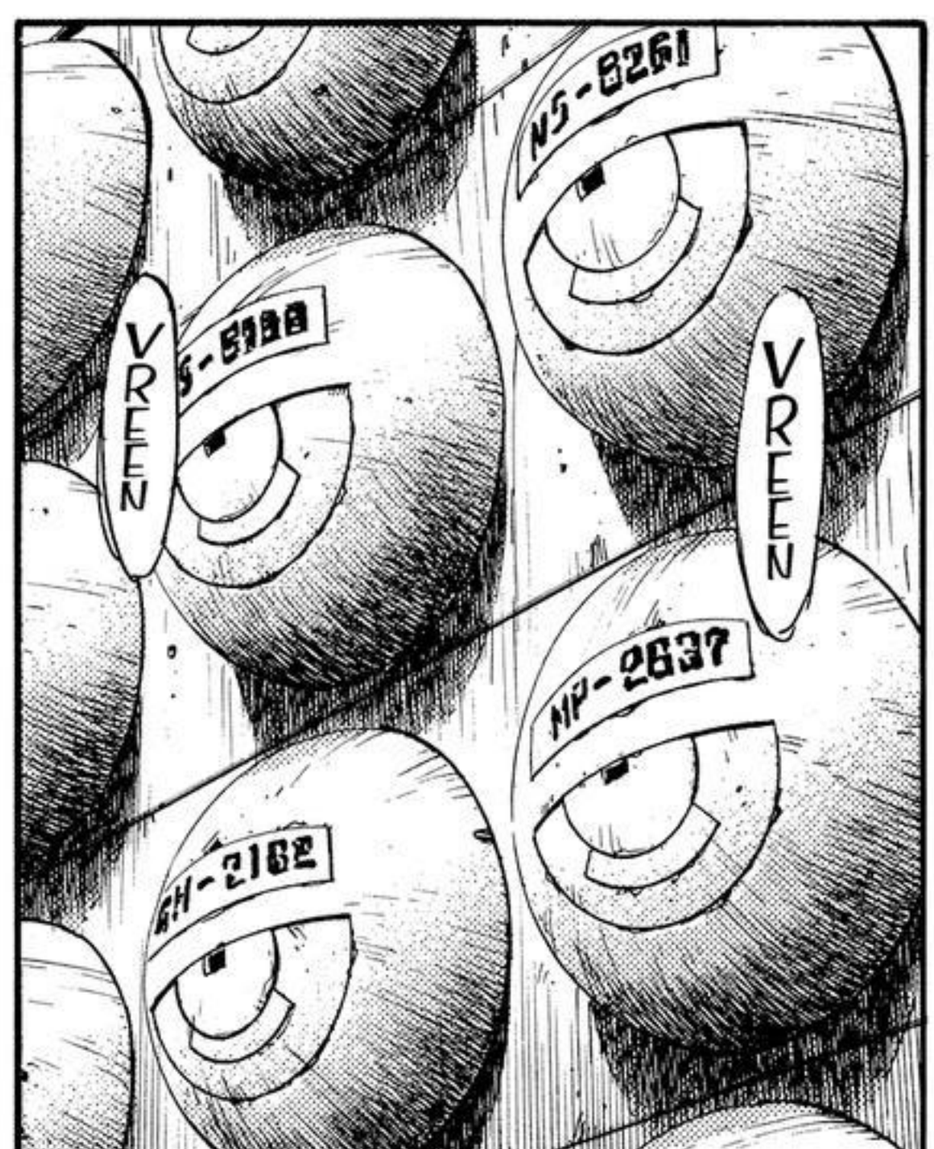
WHIIIRRRR


BEEEEP


WHOOOSH——


VREEN
VREEN
VREEN
VREEN

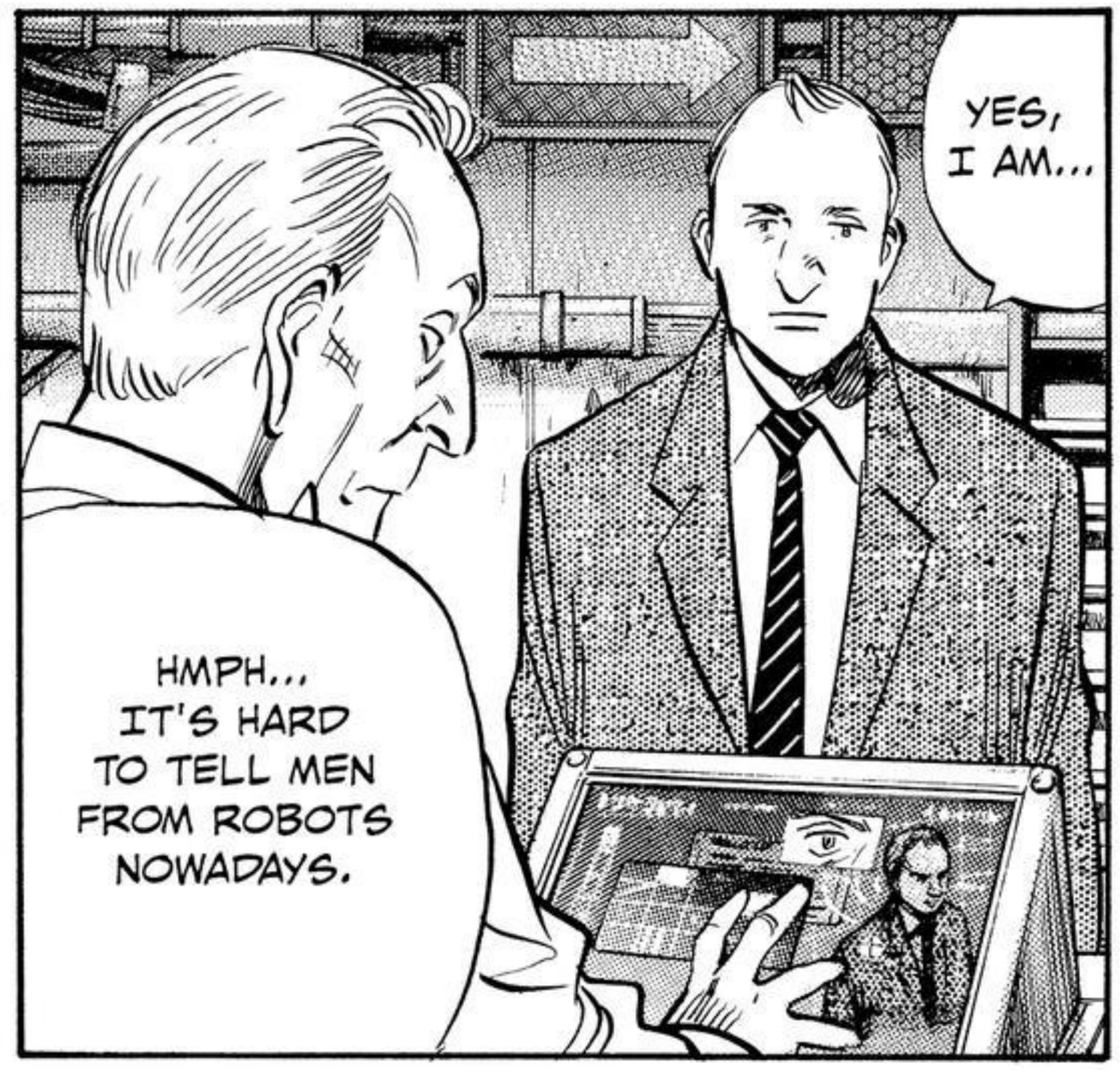

KLAK
KLAK

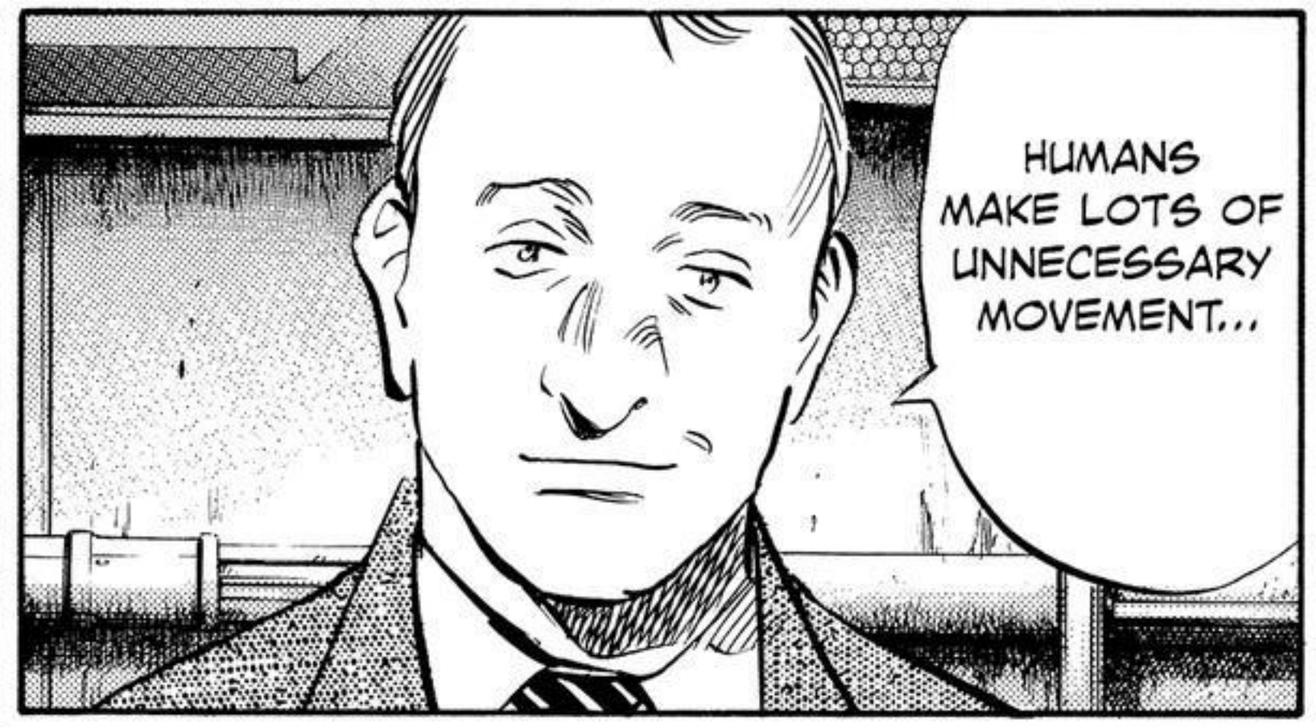

NS-8261
VREEN
VREEN
NP-2637
GH-2162

KLAK

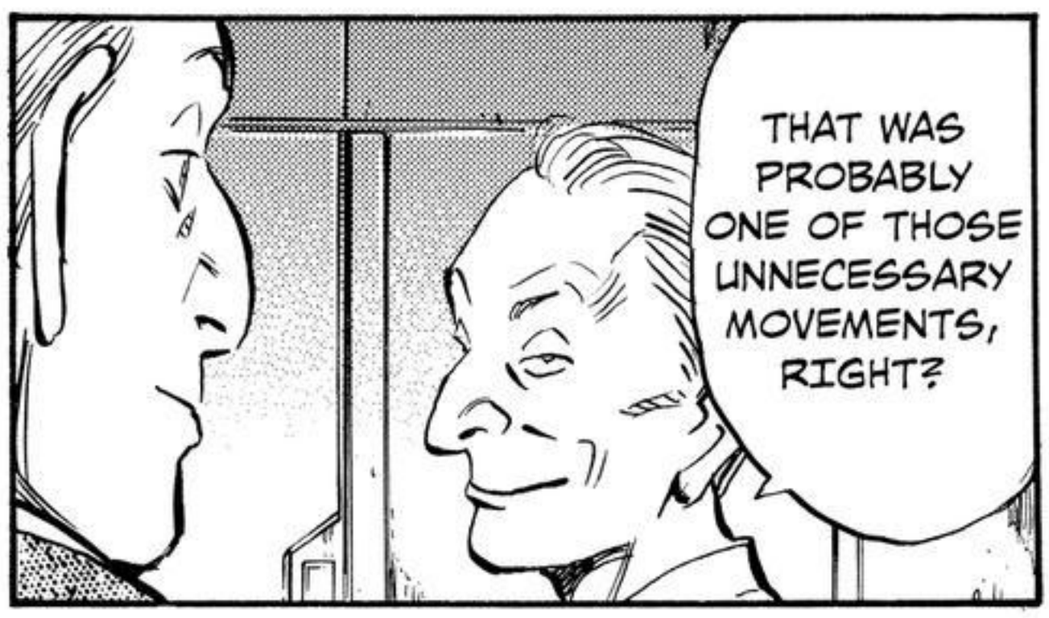
...A ROBOT, ARE YOU...?

SO... INSPECTOR... YOU'RE...



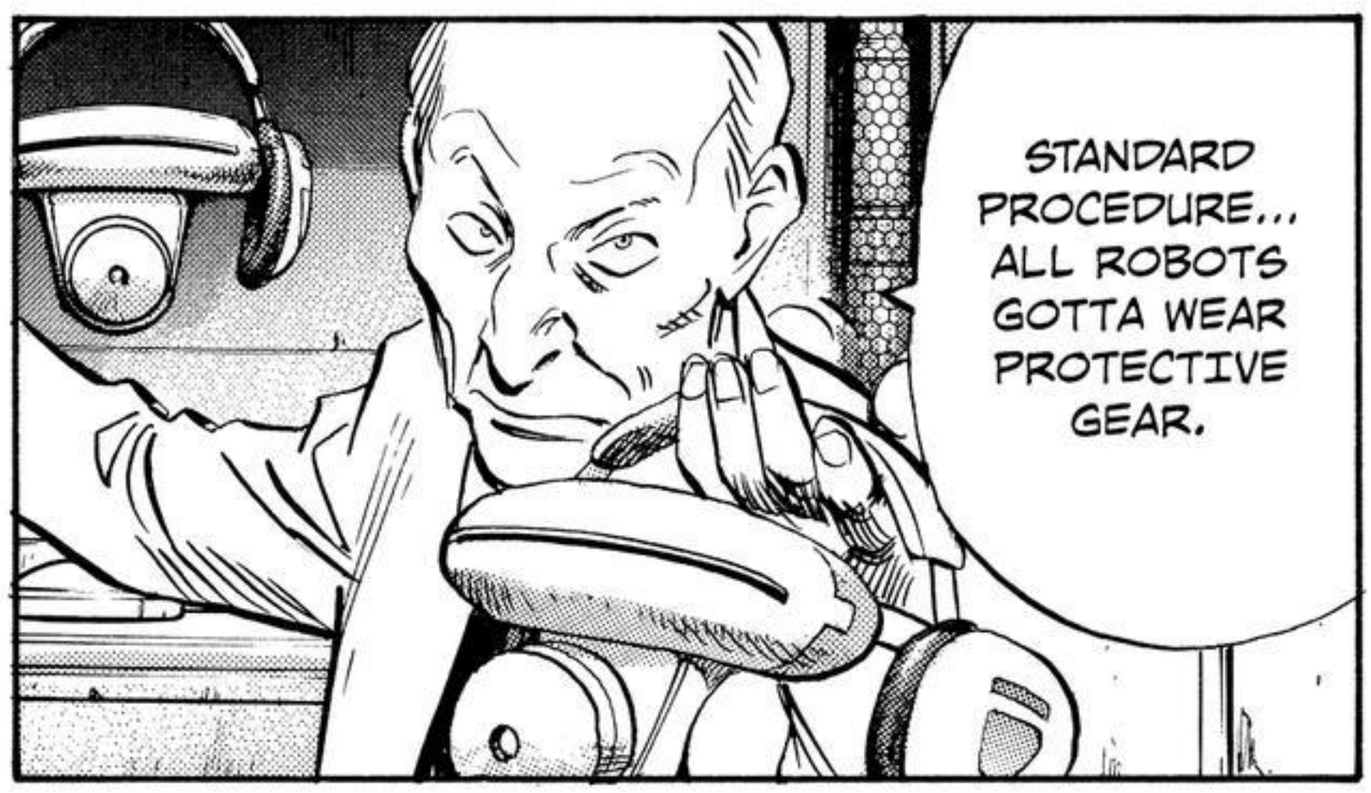


OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!

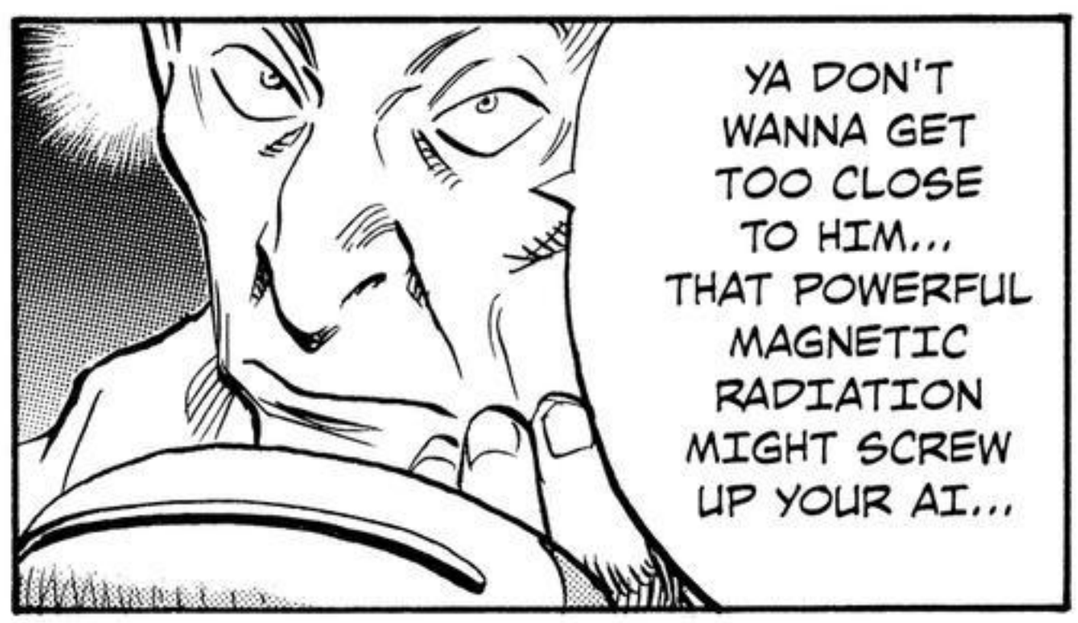

THAT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE UNNECESSARY MOVEMENTS, RIGHT?

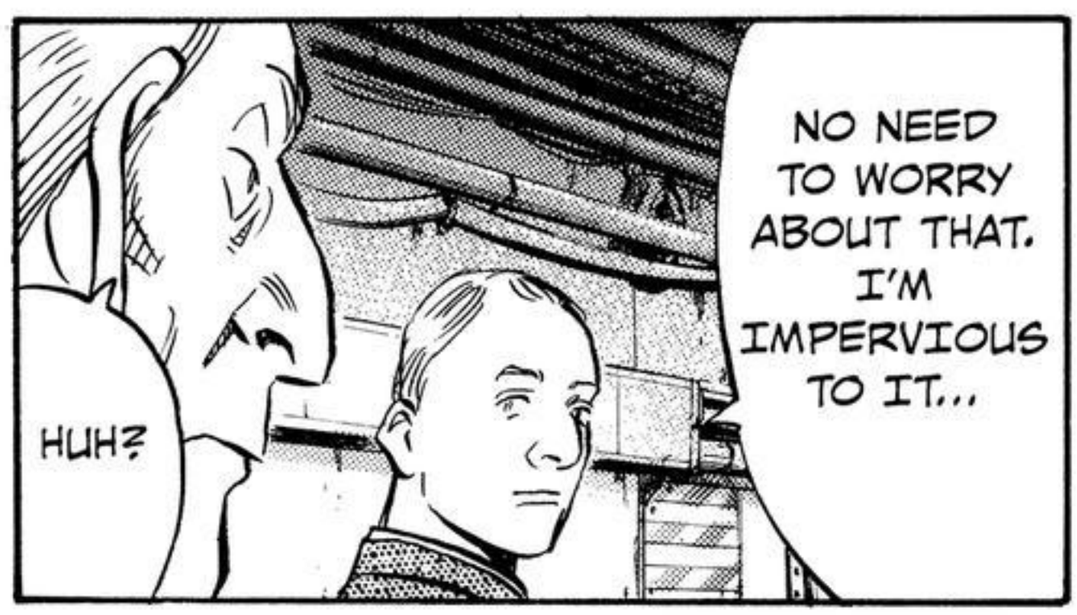
BEEEEP
THANK YOU...
DOESN'T SOUND SO EASY TO ME. OH WELL, LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND.

?


STANDARD PROCEDURE... ALL ROBOTS GOTTA WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR.

...BUT I'M MADE OF A VERY SPECIAL ALLOY...
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO TELL...


YA DON'T WANNA GET TOO CLOSE TO HIM... THAT POWERFUL MAGNETIC RADIATION MIGHT SCREW UP YOUR AI...


NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M IMPERVIOUS TO IT...
HUH?

JUST MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU.

WELL, IT'S UP TO YOU...

THAT SO?

RIGHT... AND IF YOU WANT, I CAN GO DOWN THERE WITH YOU...

...PRESS THIS BUTTON, RIGHT?

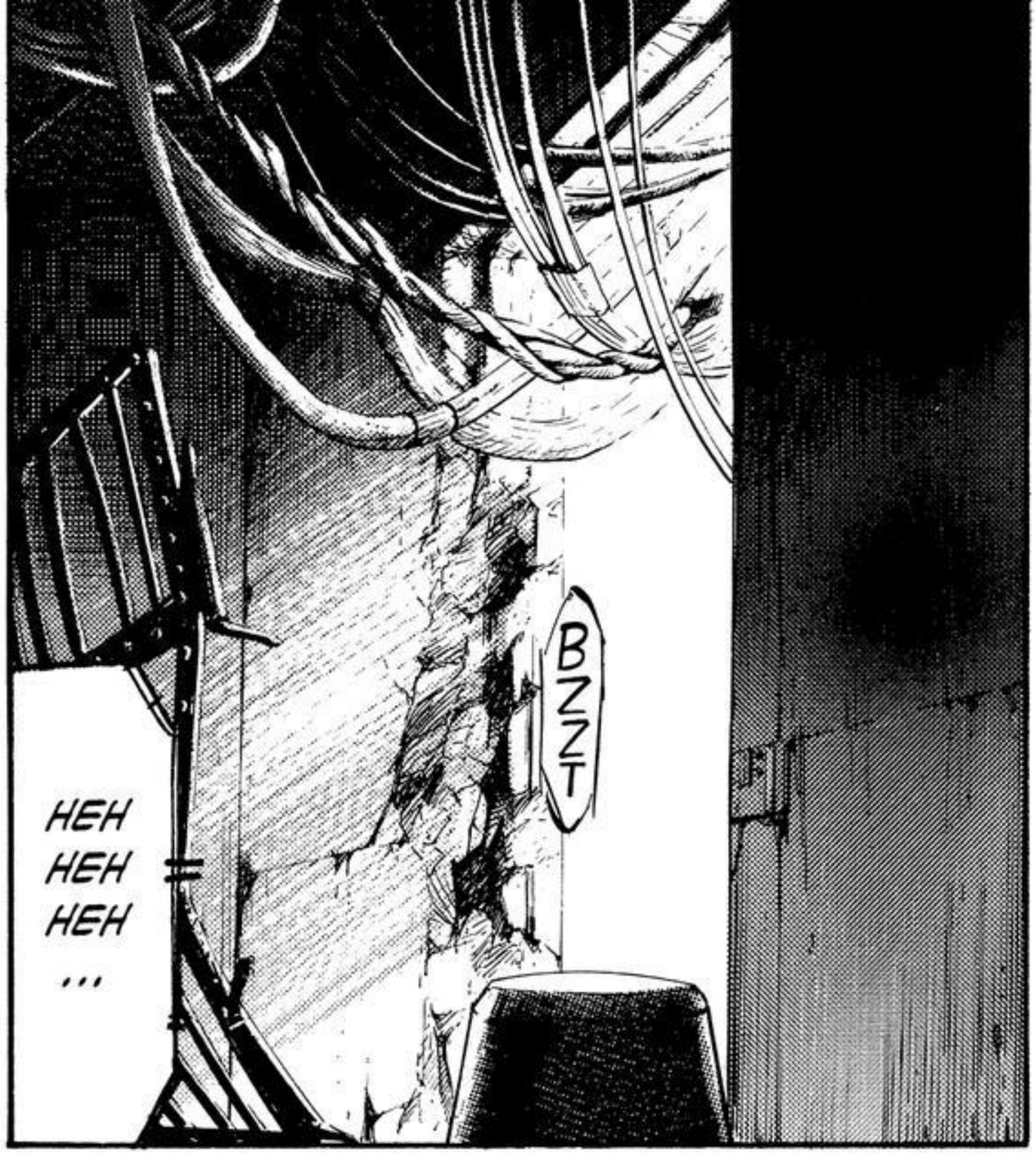
IF YOU SENSE ANY KIND OF DANGER, JUST--

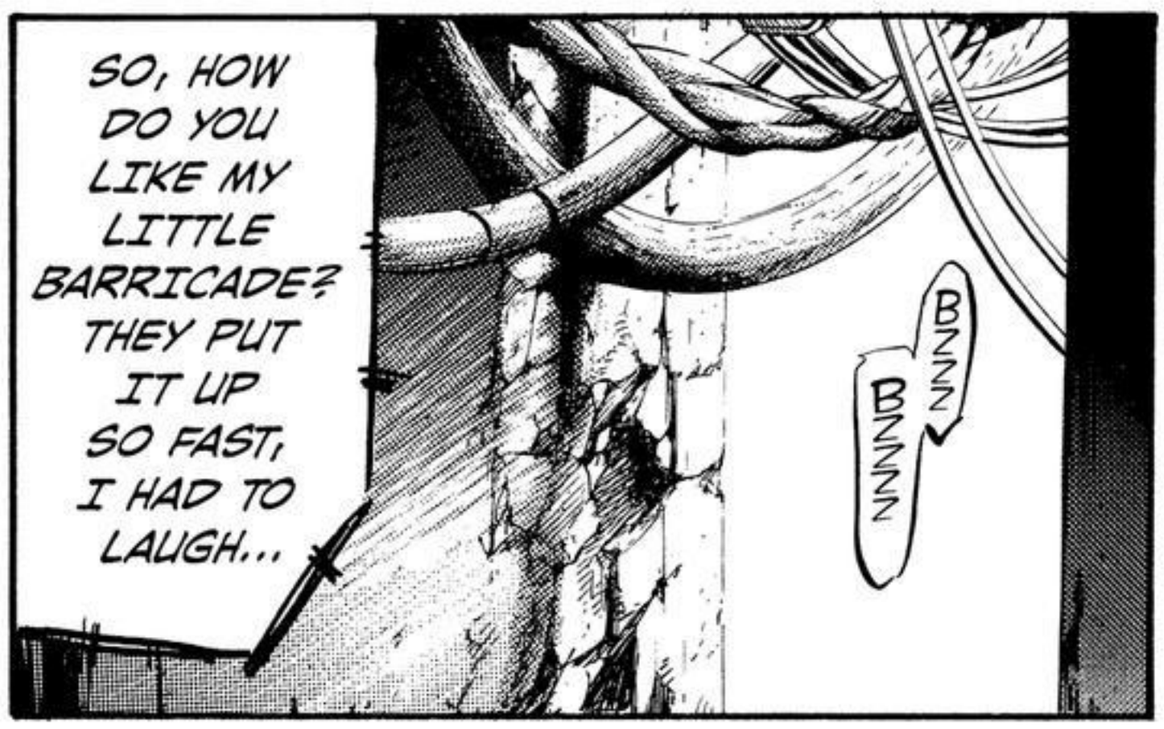
HE'S DONE IN FOUR OTHER ROBOTS SINCE COMING HERE.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I'LL BE FINE...

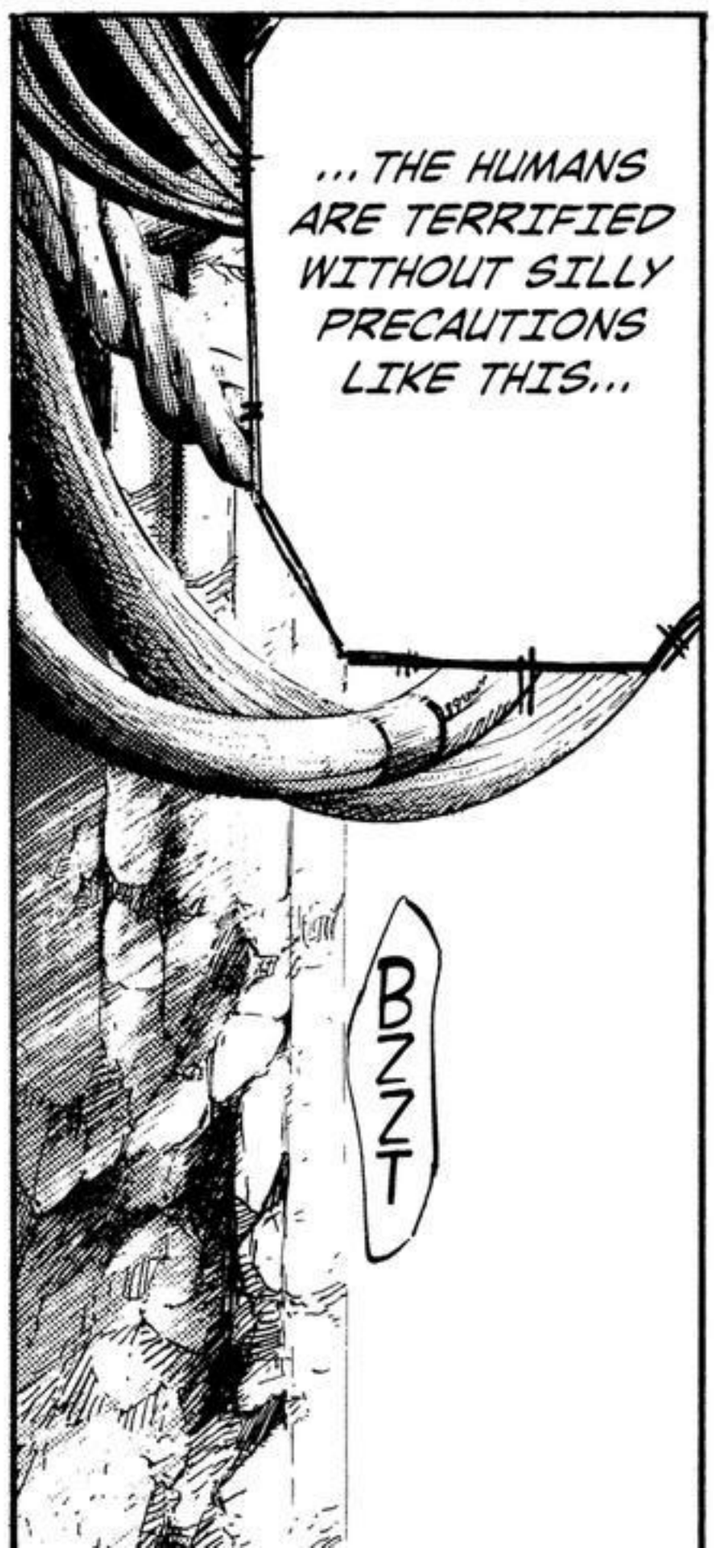
I MIGHT BE REPEATING MYSELF, BUT YOU BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE.

KA CHUNG
KLAK
VREEN
WHOOOSH
GASUNK
VRRN
VRRN
WRRM


HEH HEH HEH ...
BZZT


SO, HOW DO YOU LIKE MY LITTLE BARRICADE? THEY PUT IT UP SO FAST, I HAD TO LAUGH...
BZZZZ

KLAK


...THE HUMANS ARE TERRIFIED WITHOUT SILLY PRECAUTIONS LIKE THIS...
BZZT

KLAK
IN SPITE OF ALL THEIR HIGH-TECH SECURITY DEVICES...
BZZZ

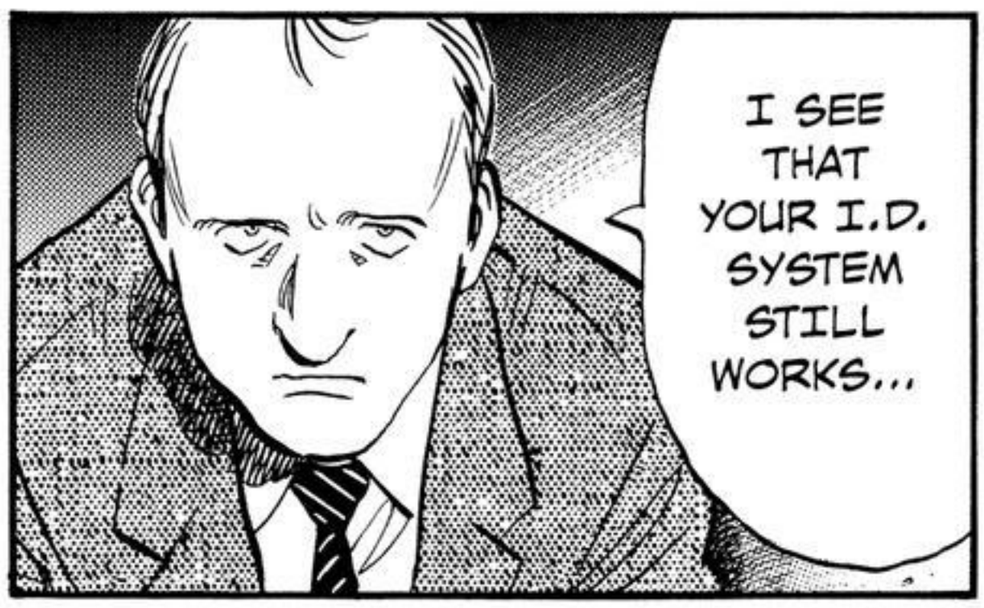
BRAU 1589...

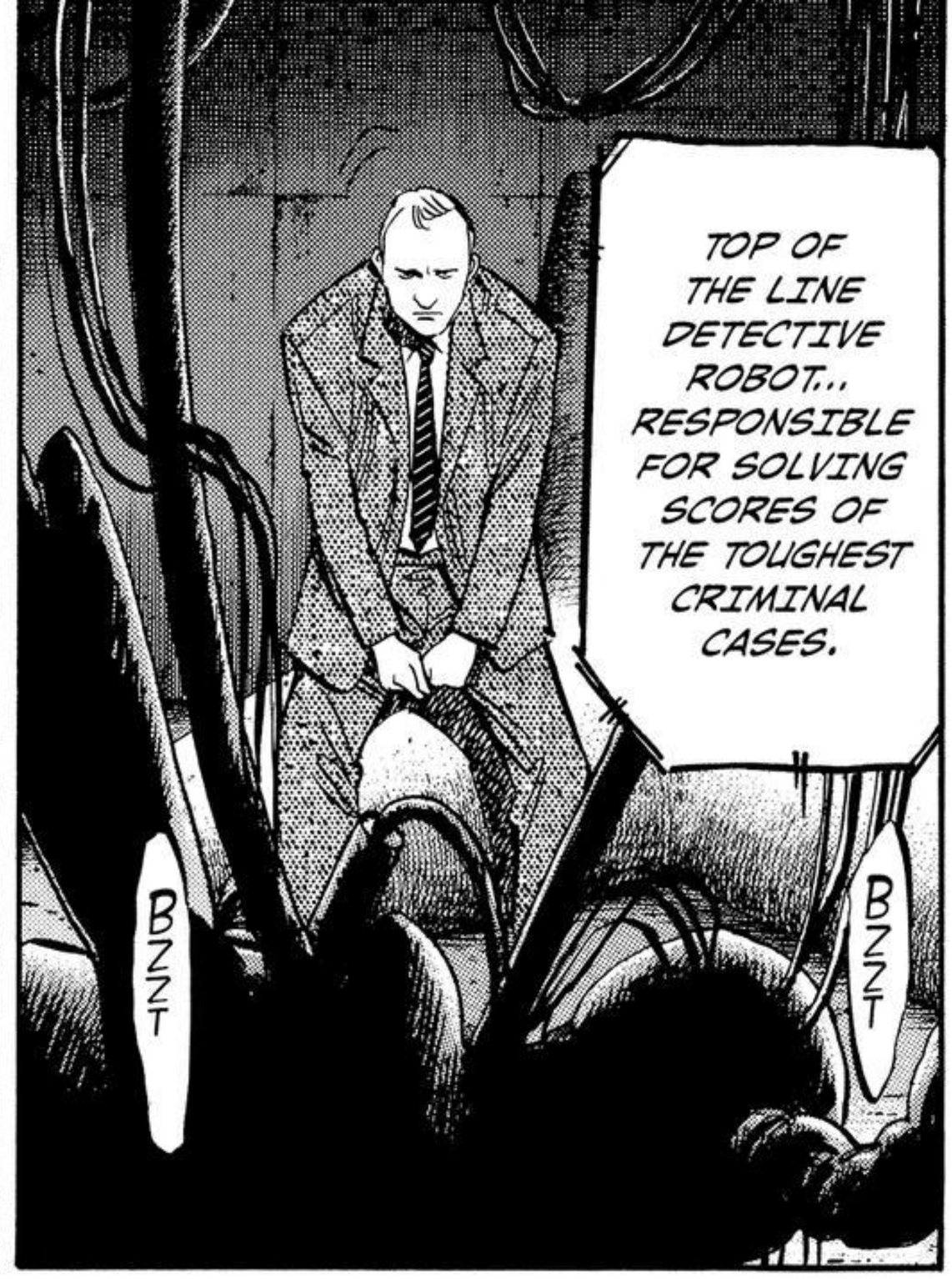
BZZZ

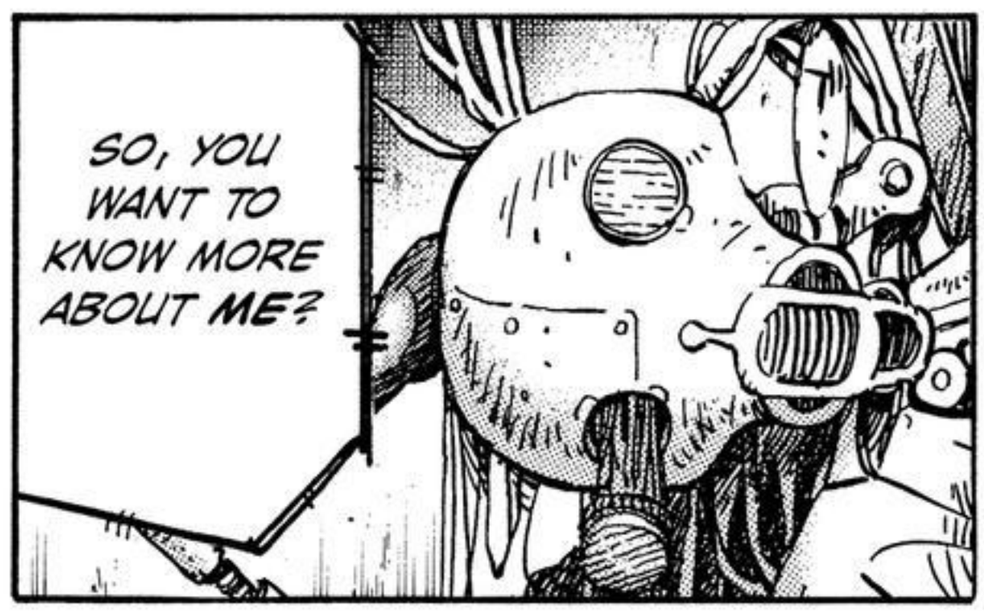
KLK

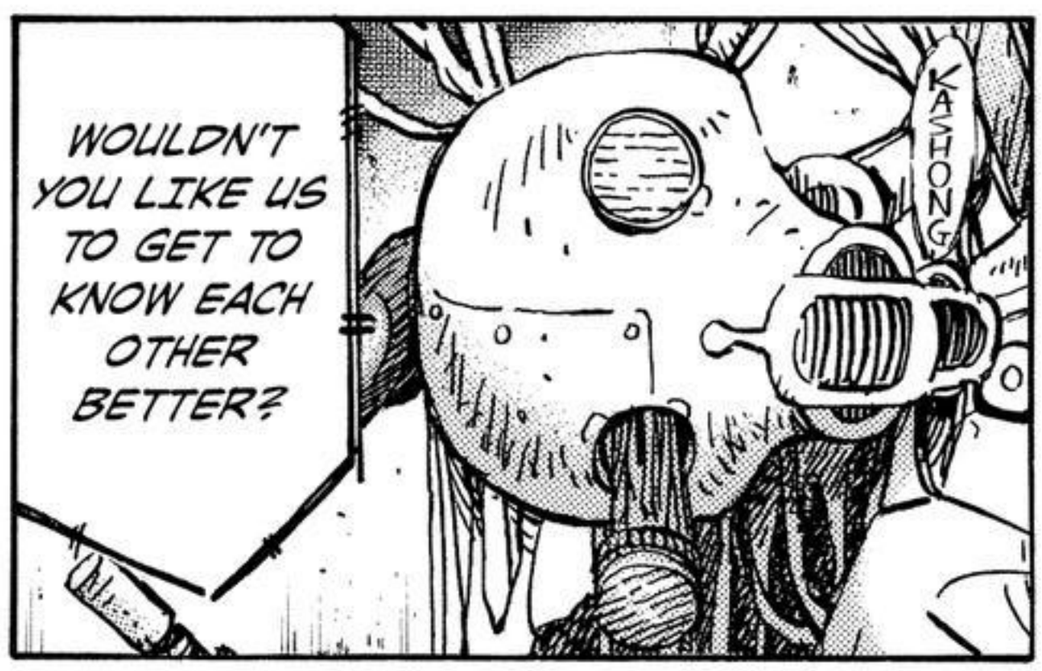
KREE

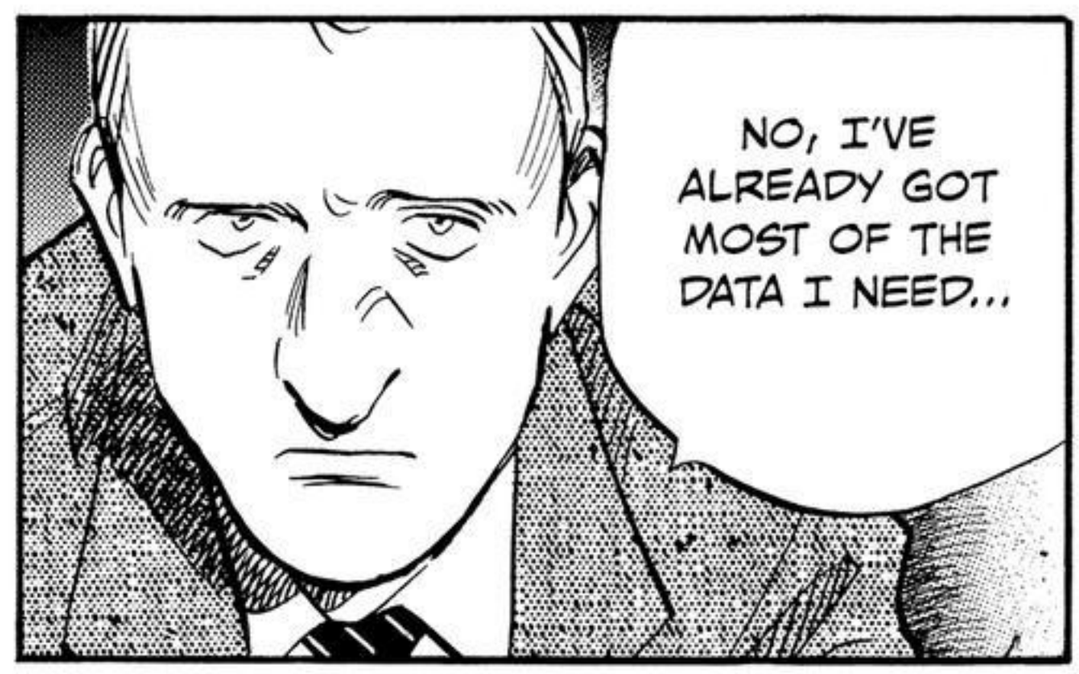
AT YOUR SERVICE... INSPECTOR GESICHT. YOU'RE ROBOT MODEL HRS 0288, ARE YOU NOT?

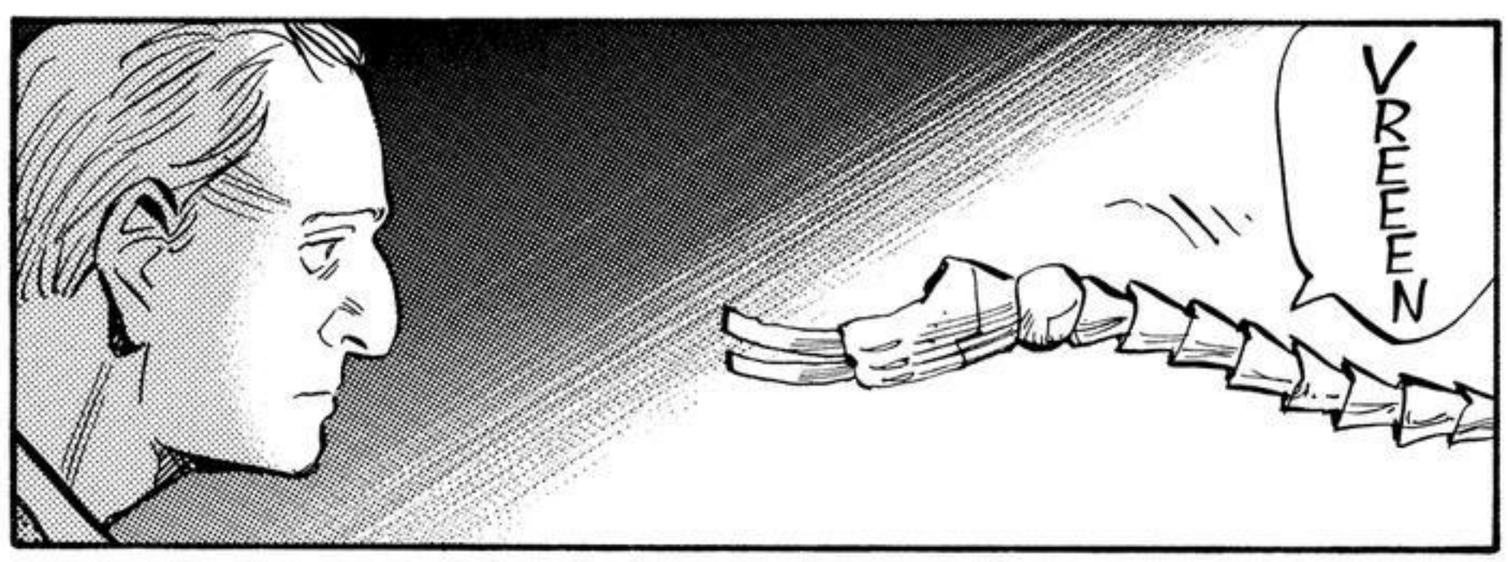

I SEE THAT YOUR I.D. SYSTEM STILL WORKS...

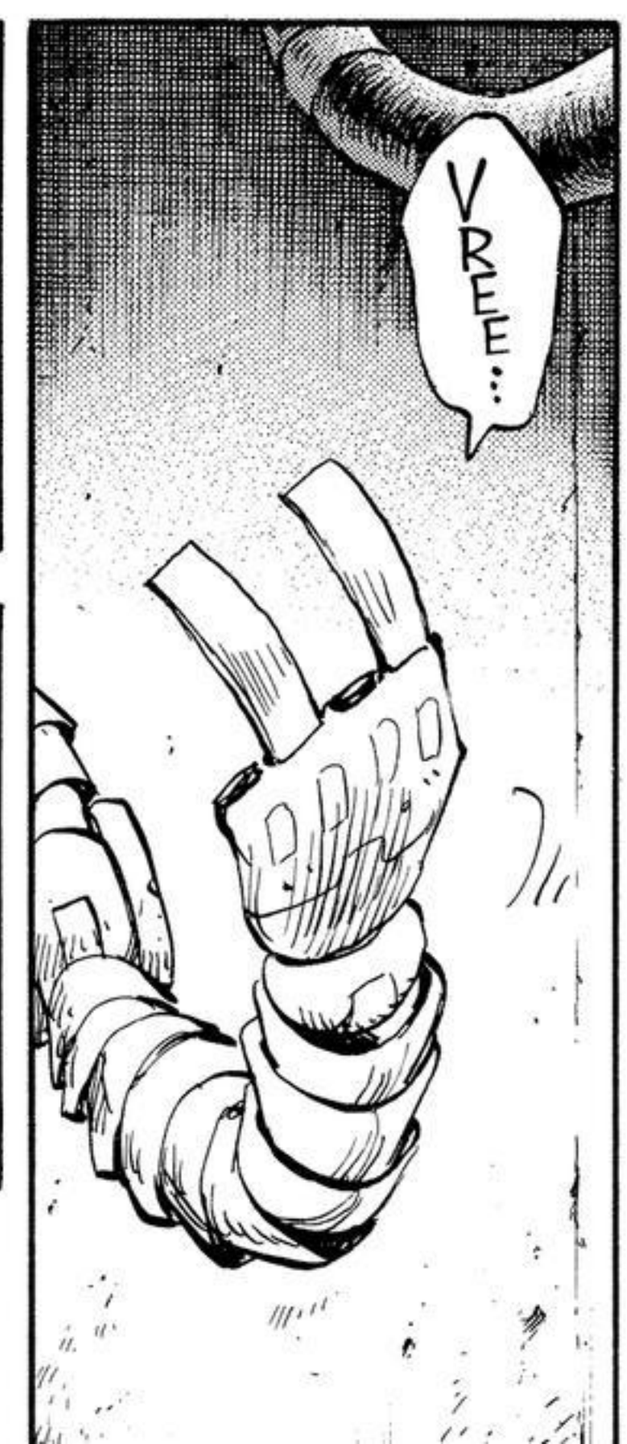

TOP OF THE LINE DETECTIVE ROBOT... RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLVING SCORES OF THE TOUGHEST CRIMINAL CASES.
BZZT
BZZT

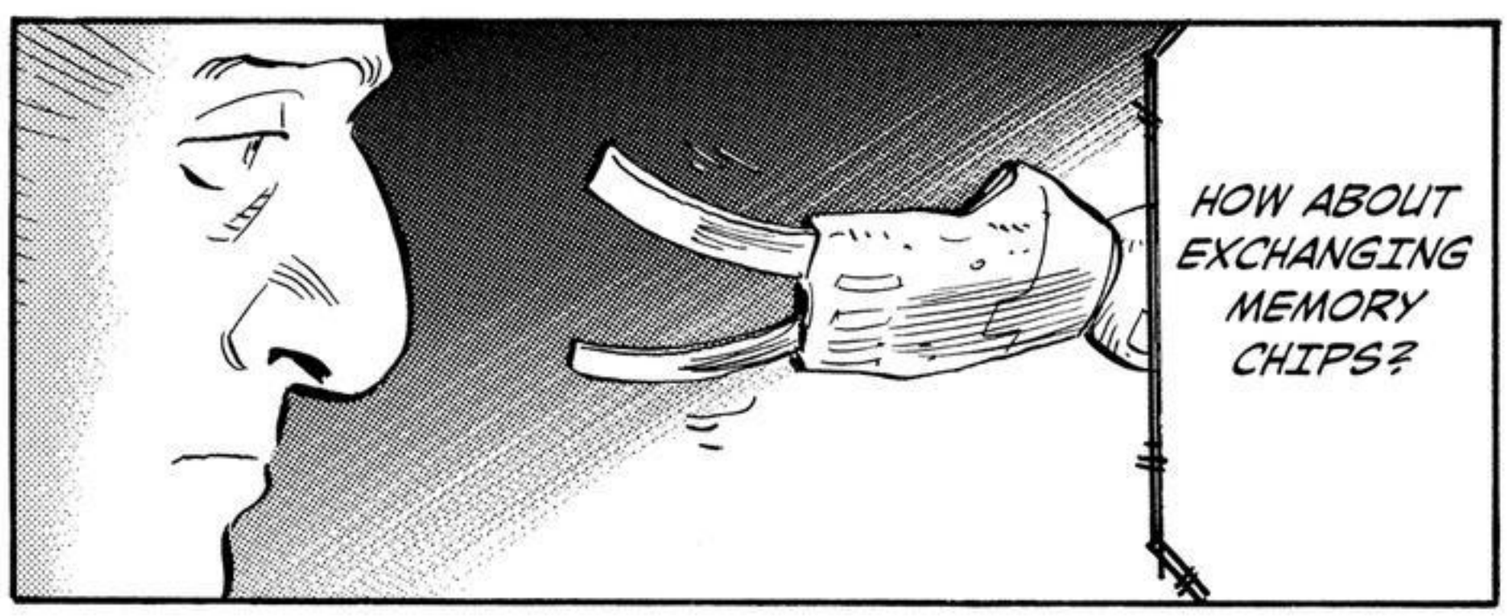

SO, YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME?


WOULDN'T YOU LIKE US TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER?
KASHONG


NO, I'VE ALREADY GOT MOST OF THE DATA I NEED...

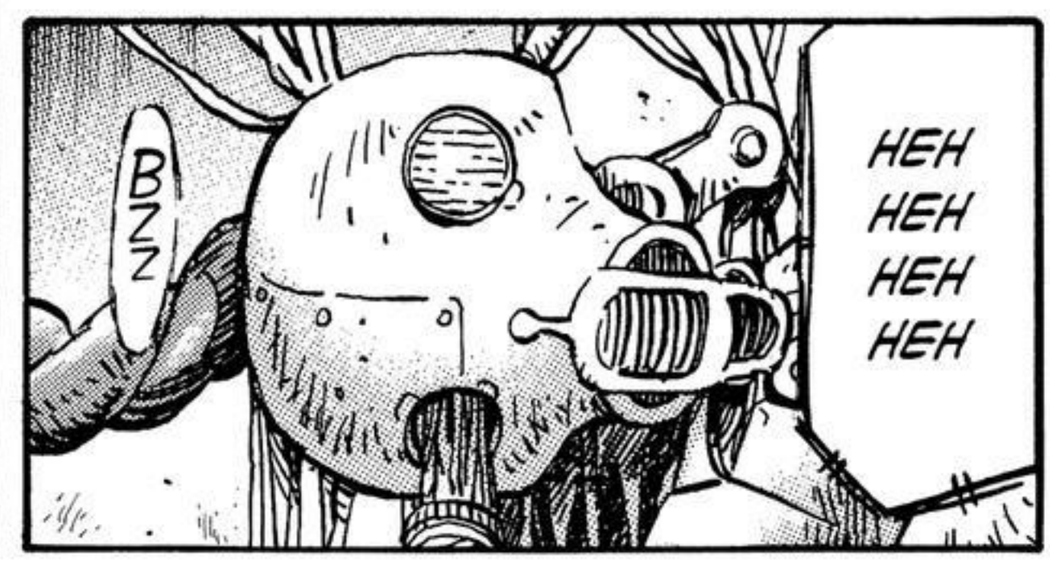

VREEEN

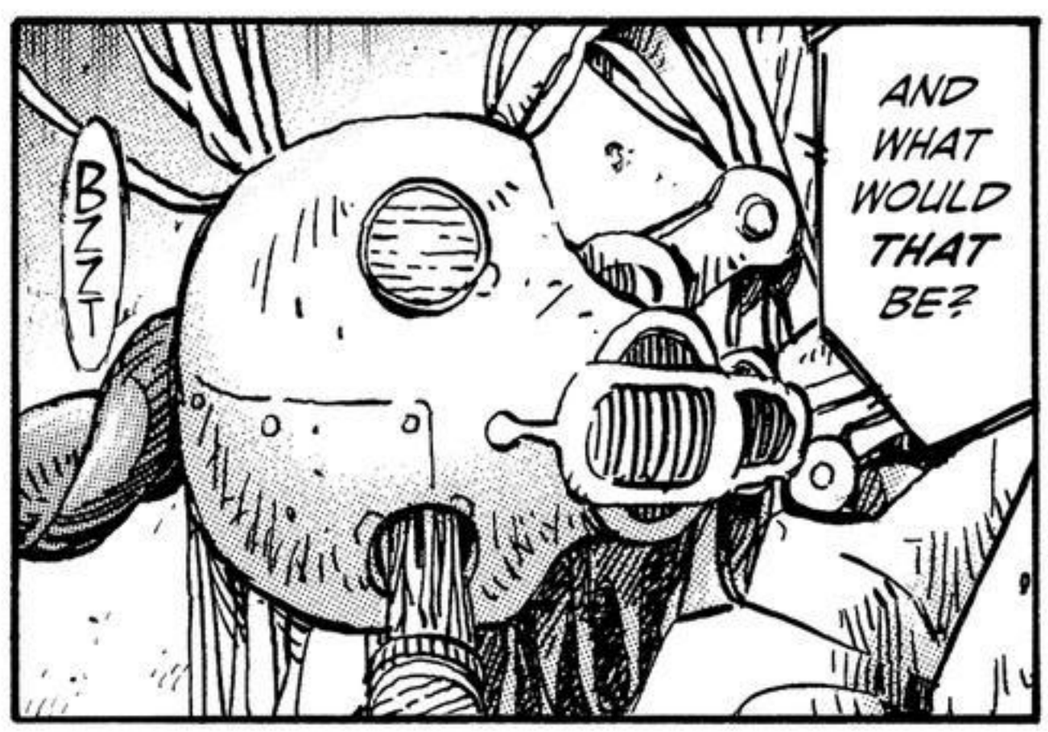

VREE...

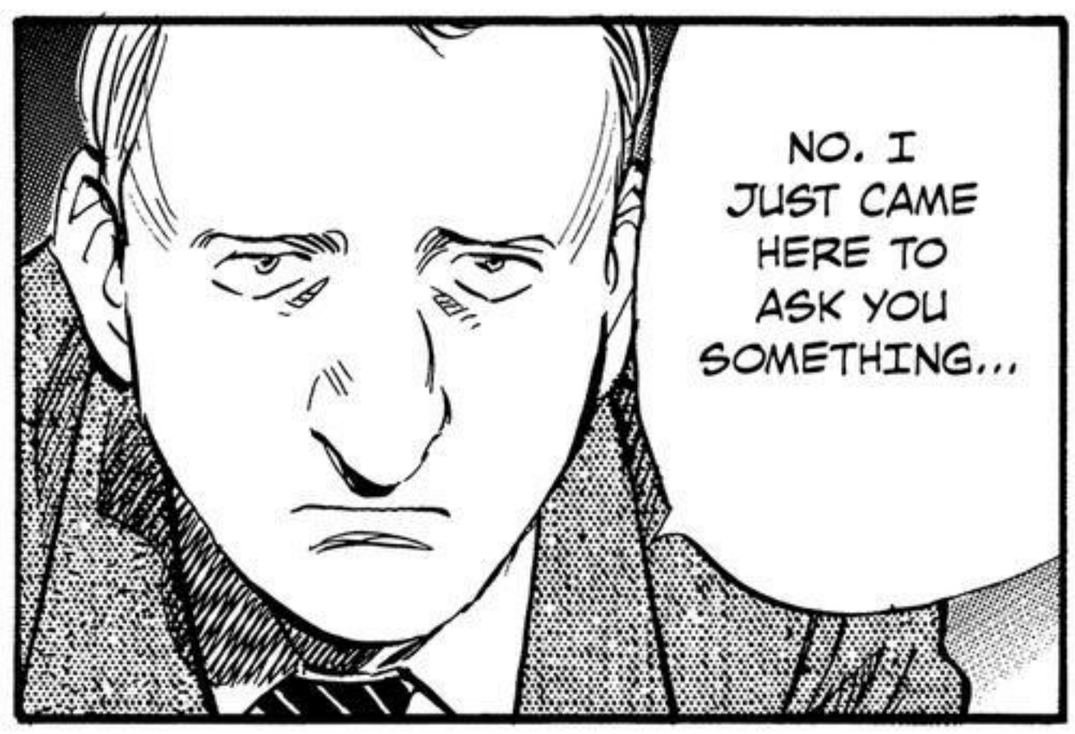

HOW ABOUT EXCHANGING MEMORY CHIPS?

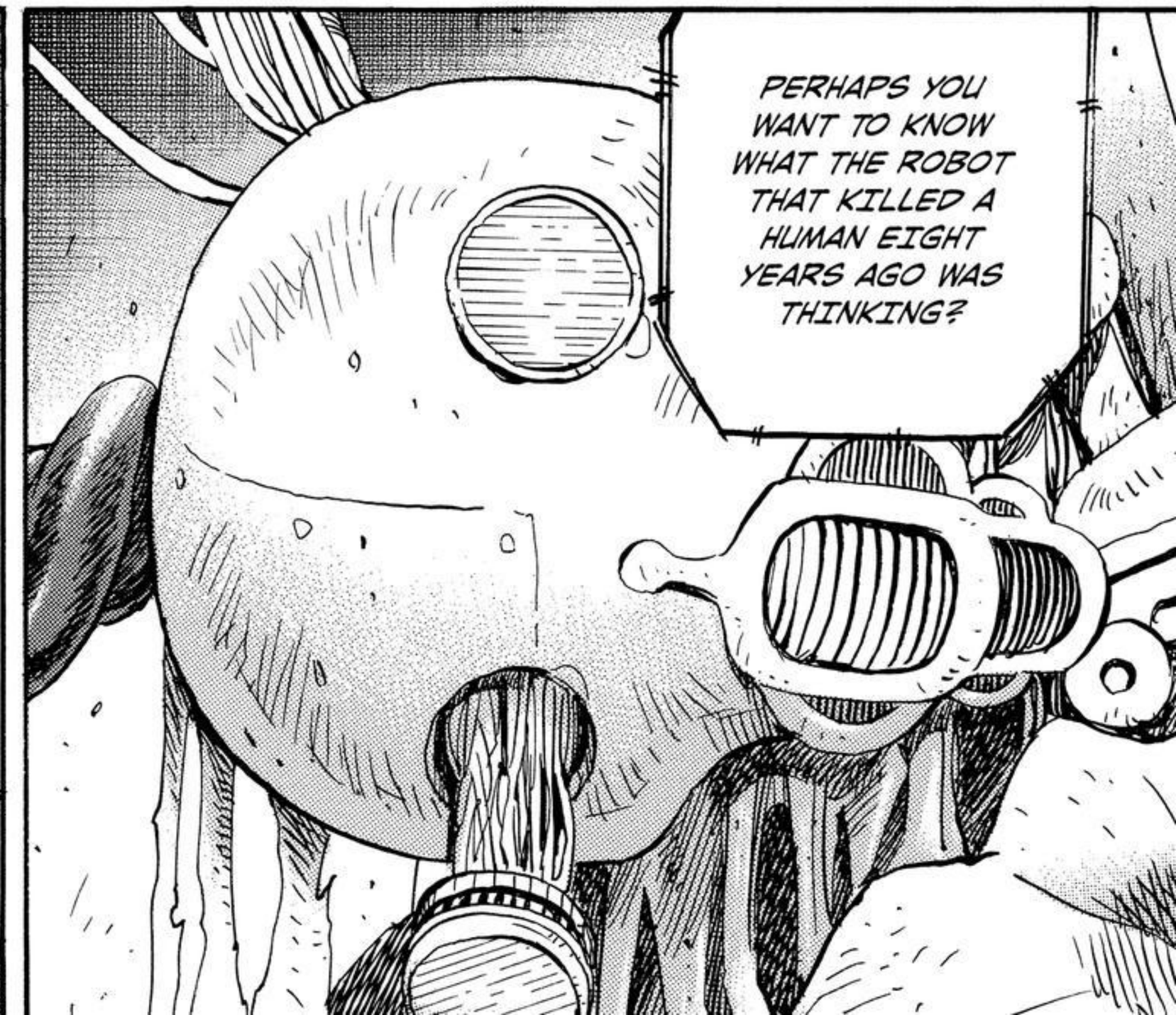
AFRAID I'LL HIJACK YOUR BODY?
VREEN
VRE...

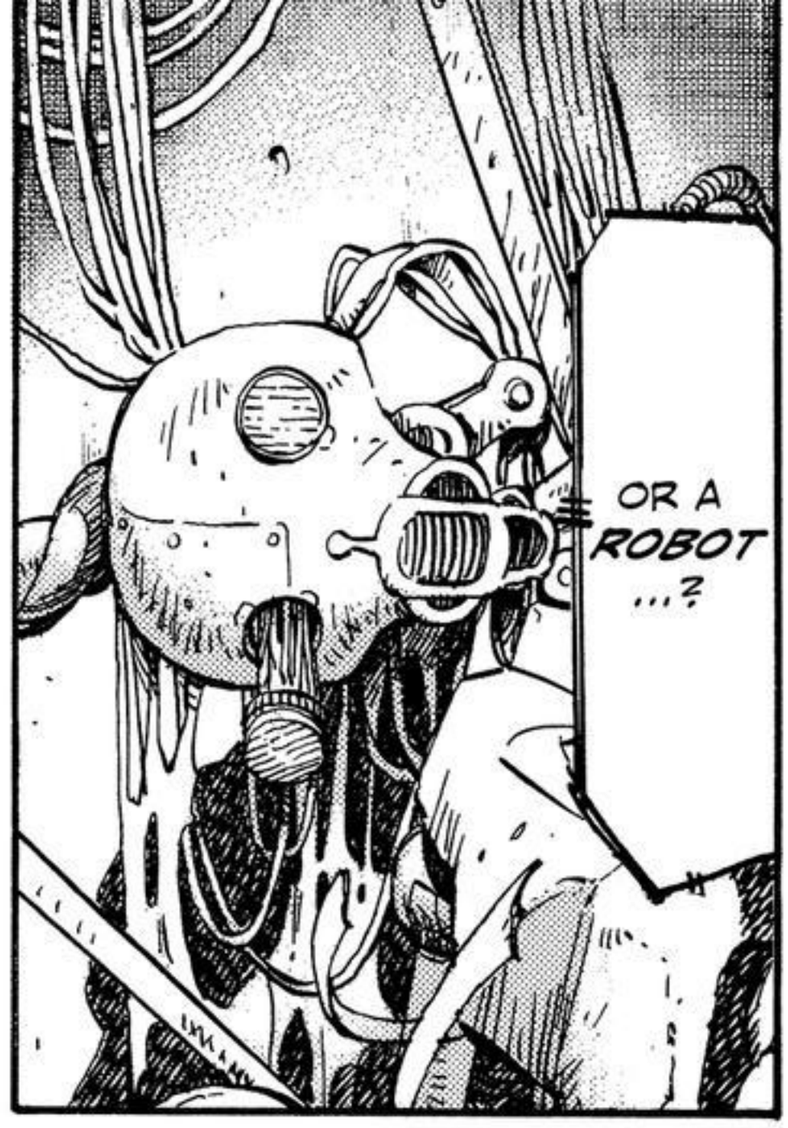
THANKS, BUT I'LL PASS ON THAT...

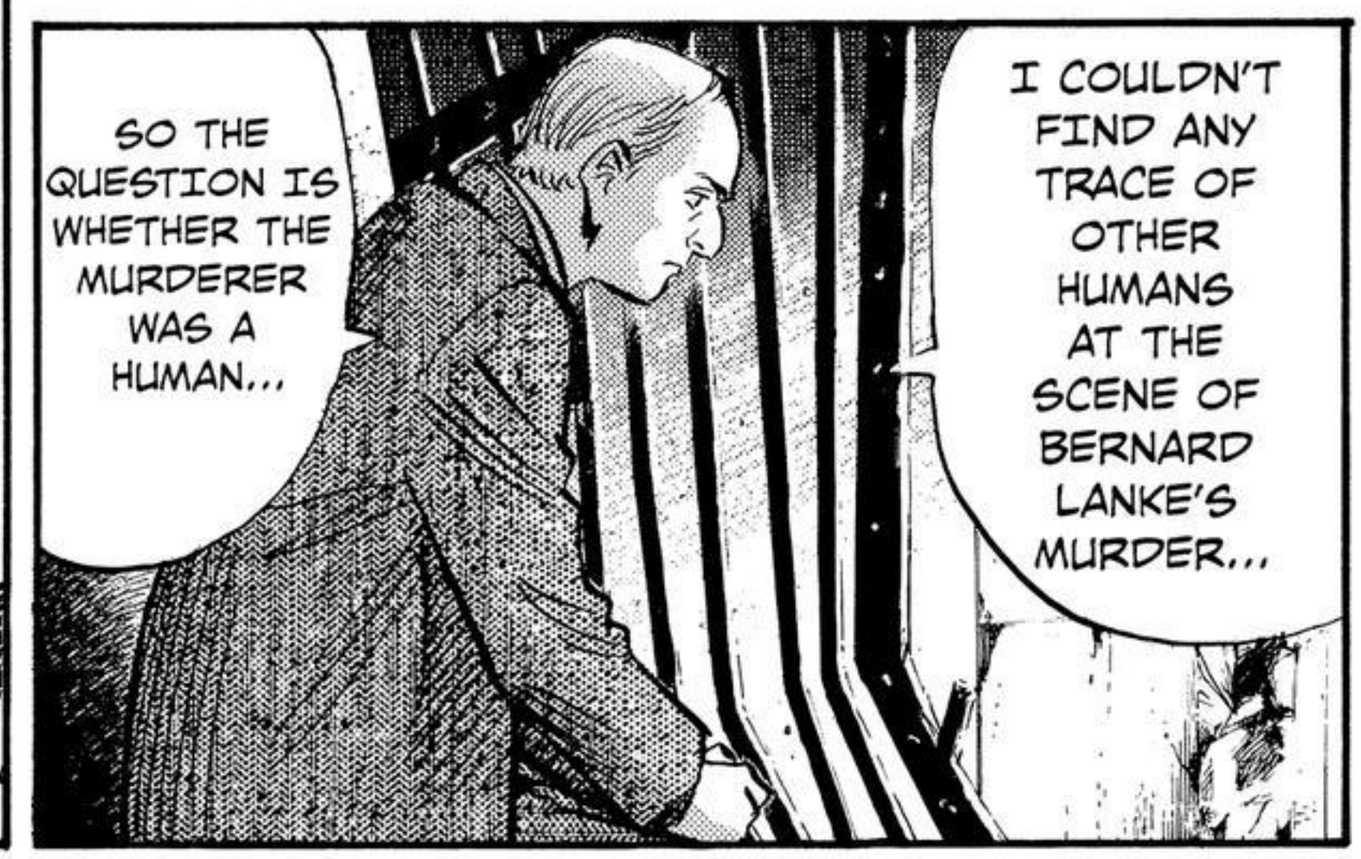

BZZ
HEH HEH HEH HEH

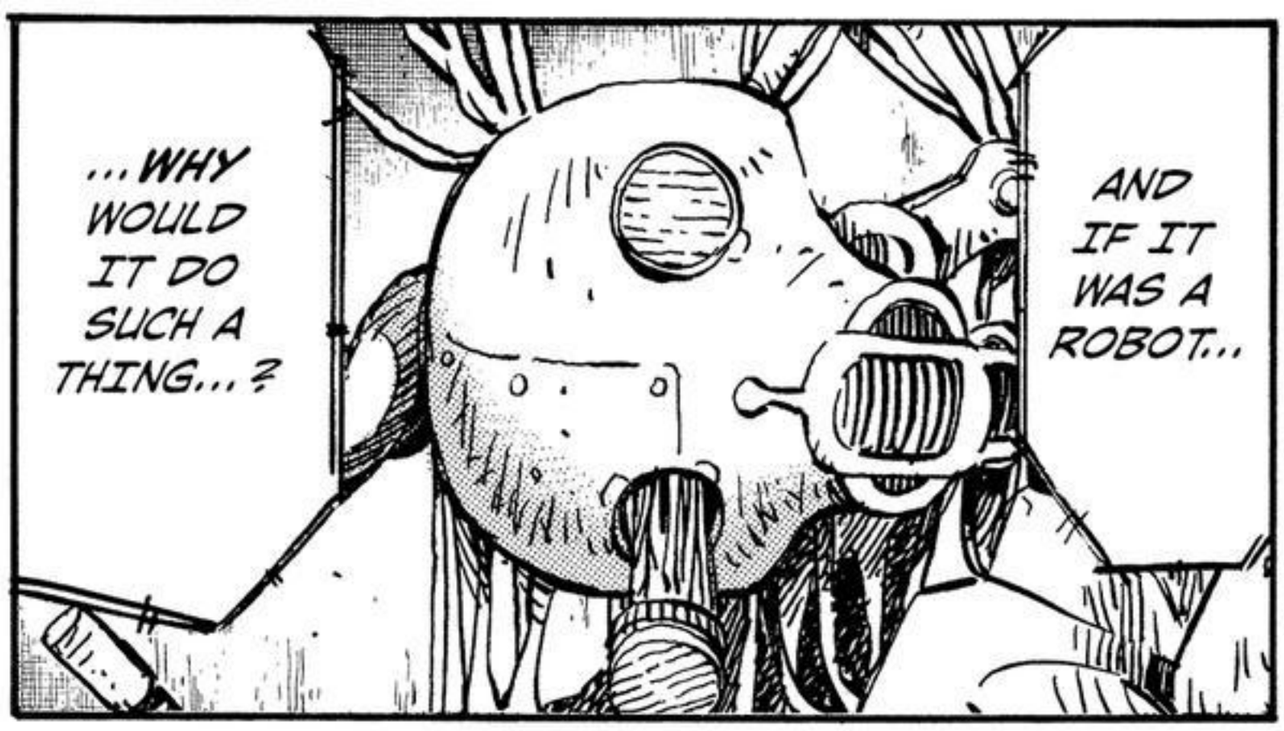

BZZT
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

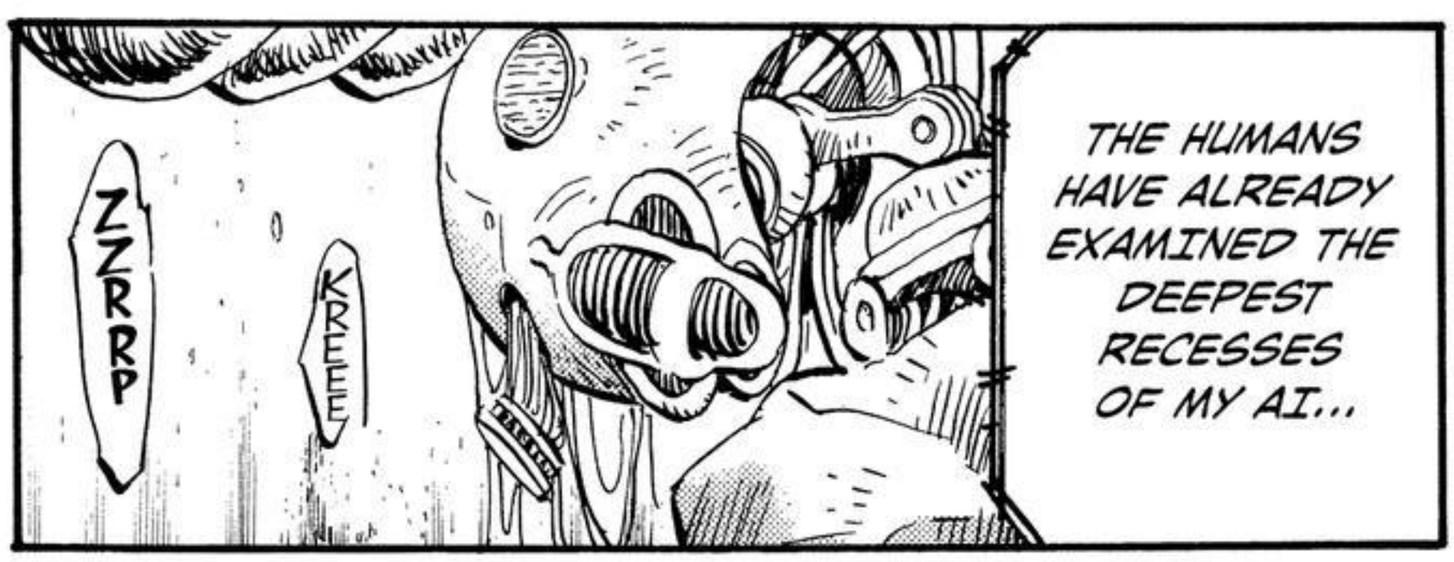

NO. I JUST CAME HERE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...


PERHAPS YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE ROBOT THAT KILLED A HUMAN EIGHT YEARS AGO WAS THINKING?


OR A ROBOT ...?


SO THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE MURDERER WAS A HUMAN...
I COULDN'T FIND ANY TRACE OF OTHER HUMANS AT THE SCENE OF BERNARD LANKE'S MURDER...

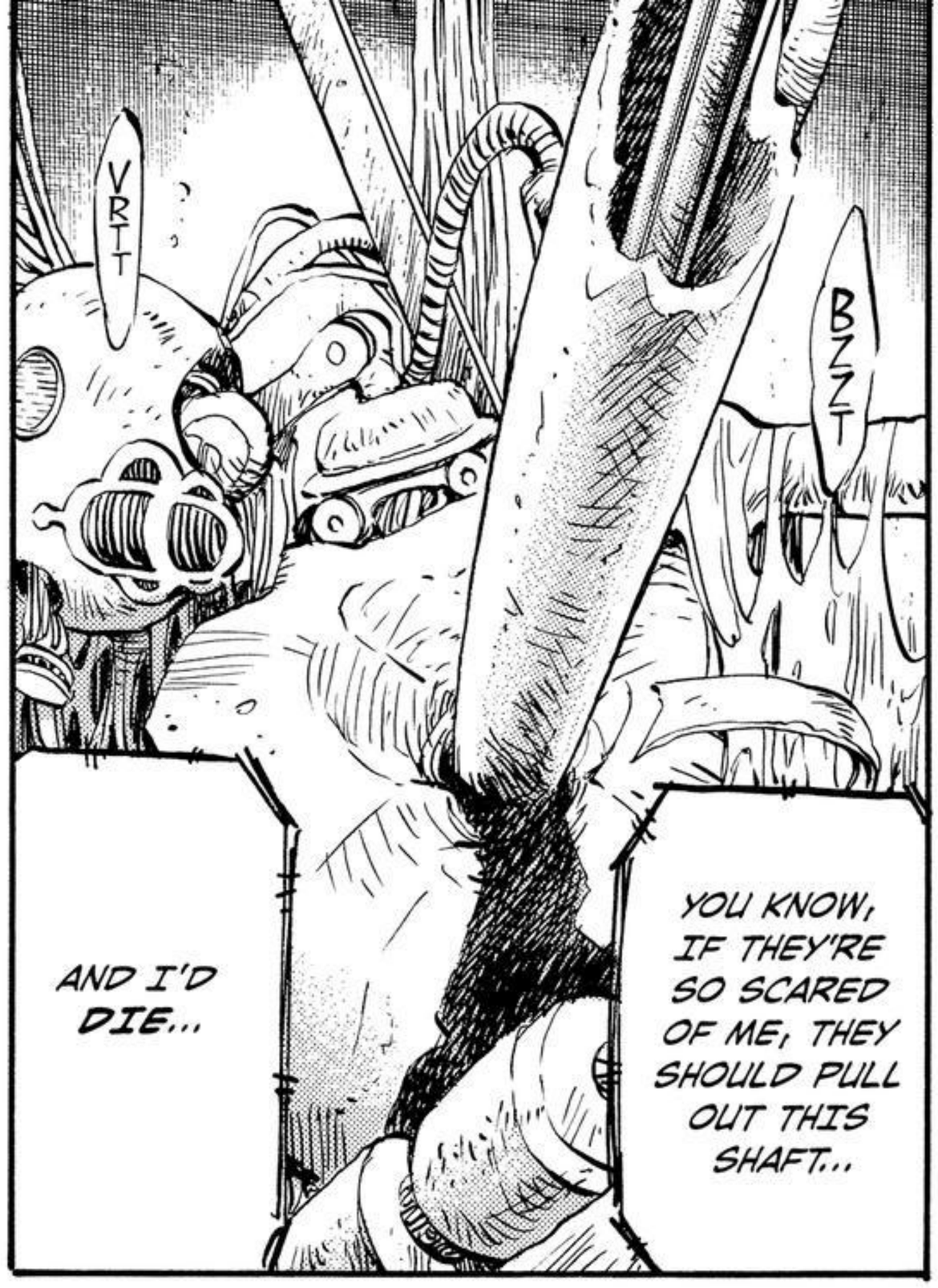

...WHY WOULD IT DO SUCH A THING...?
AND IF IT WAS A ROBOT...

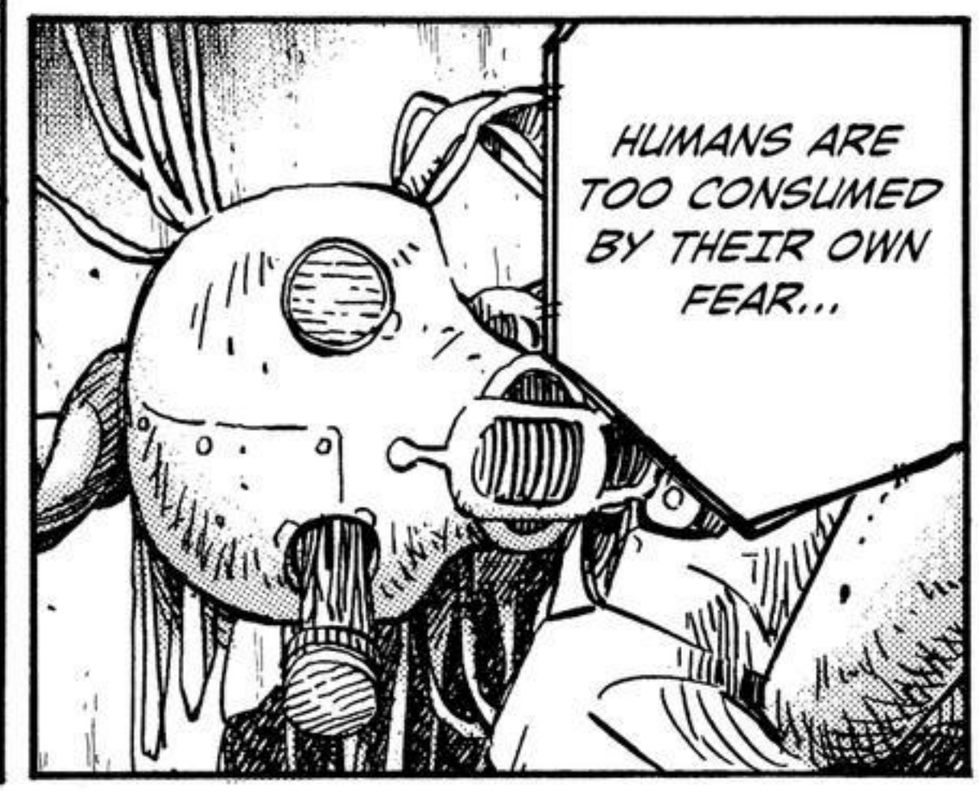

ZZRRP
KREEE
THE HUMANS HAVE ALREADY EXAMINED THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF MY AI...

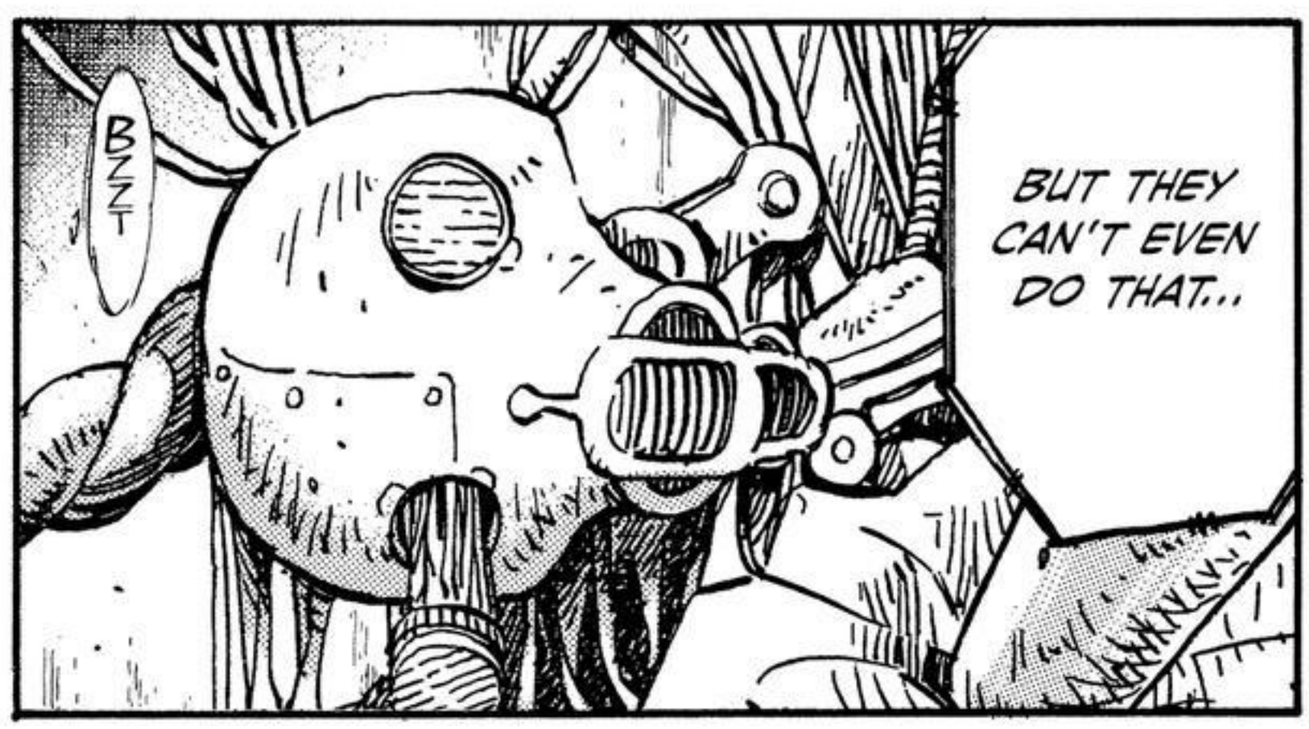
NOT A SINGLE DEFECT...

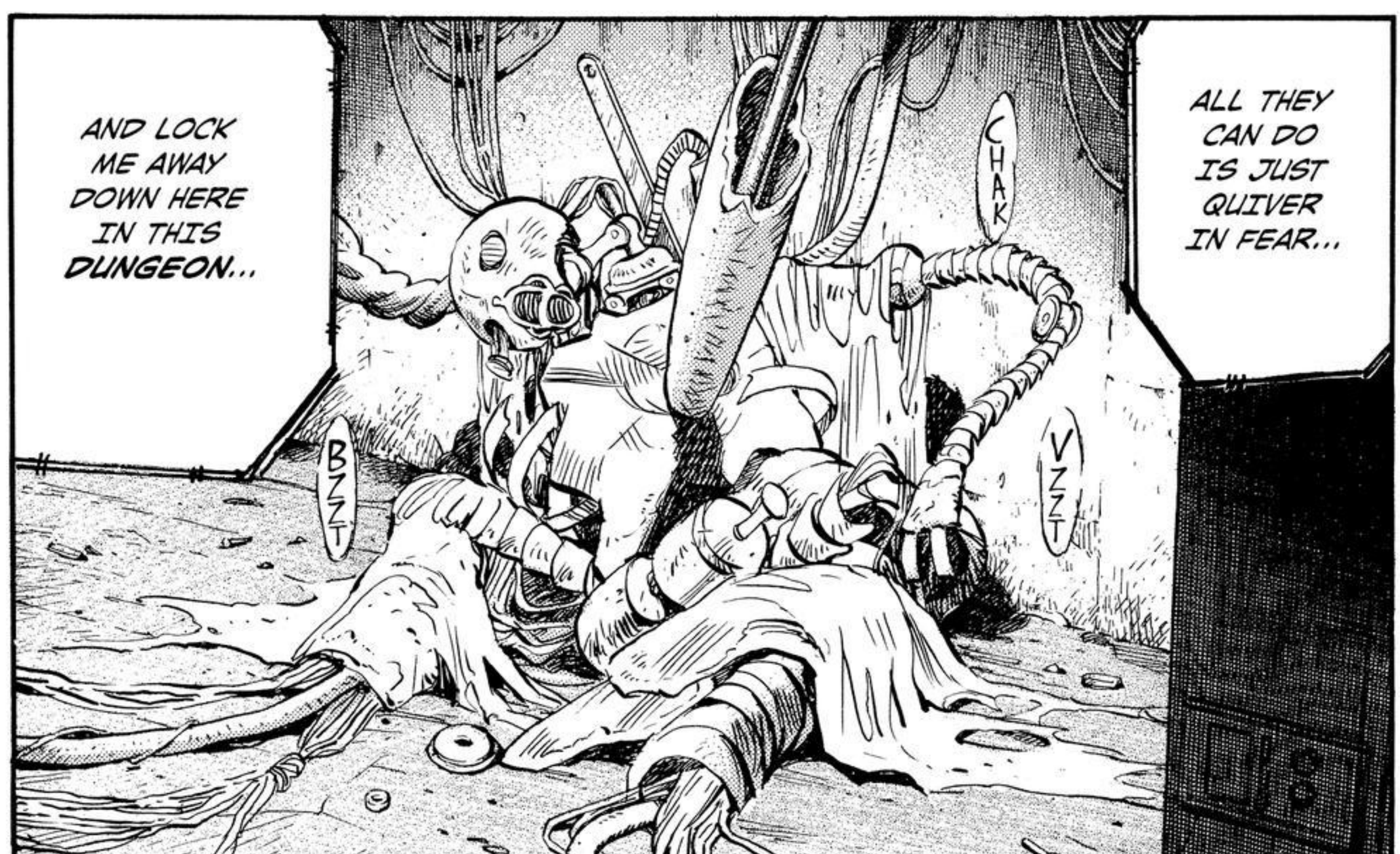
BZZZZ
VREEN
...BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG...

BEEP
BZZT

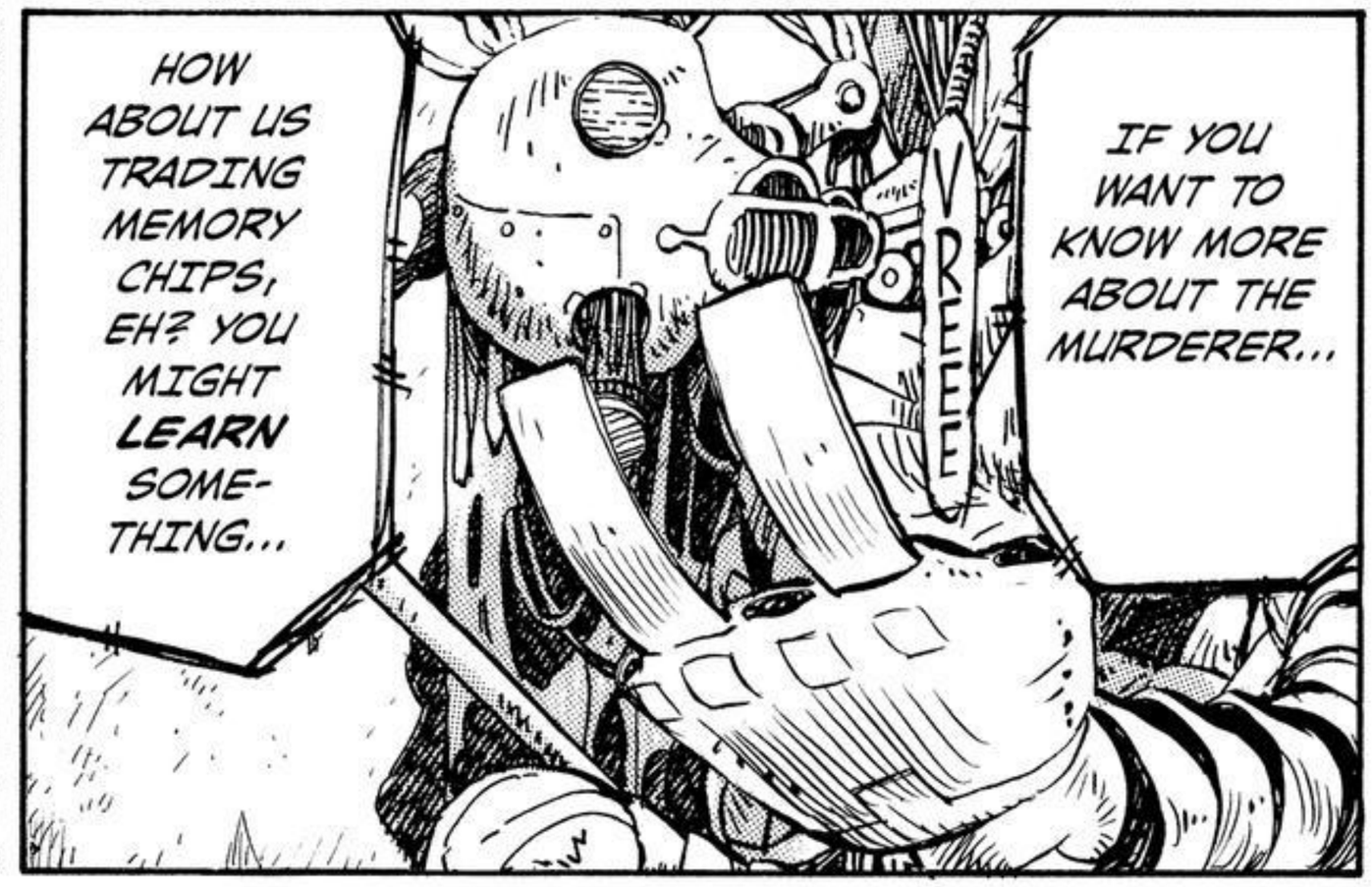

VRTT
BZZT
AND I'D DIE...
YOU KNOW, IF THEY'RE SO SCARED OF ME, THEY SHOULD PULL OUT THIS SHAFT...

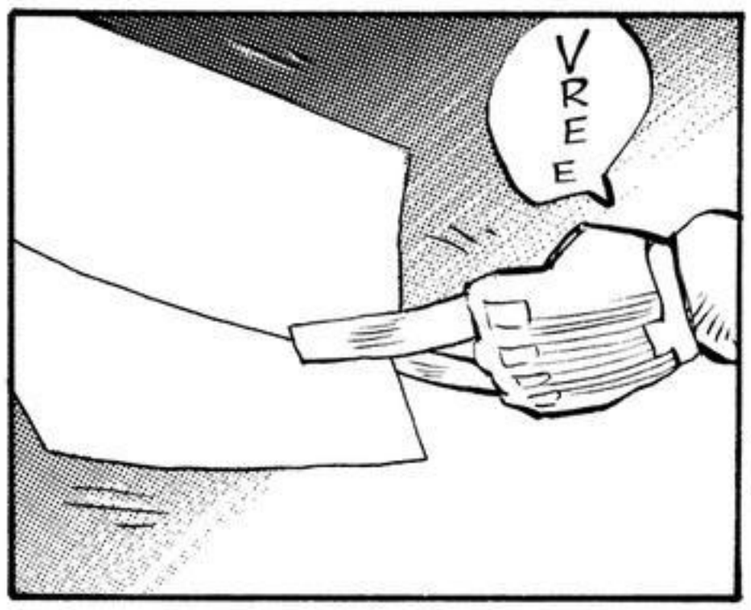

HUMANS ARE TOO CONSUMED BY THEIR OWN FEAR...


BZZT
BUT THEY CAN'T EVEN DO THAT...

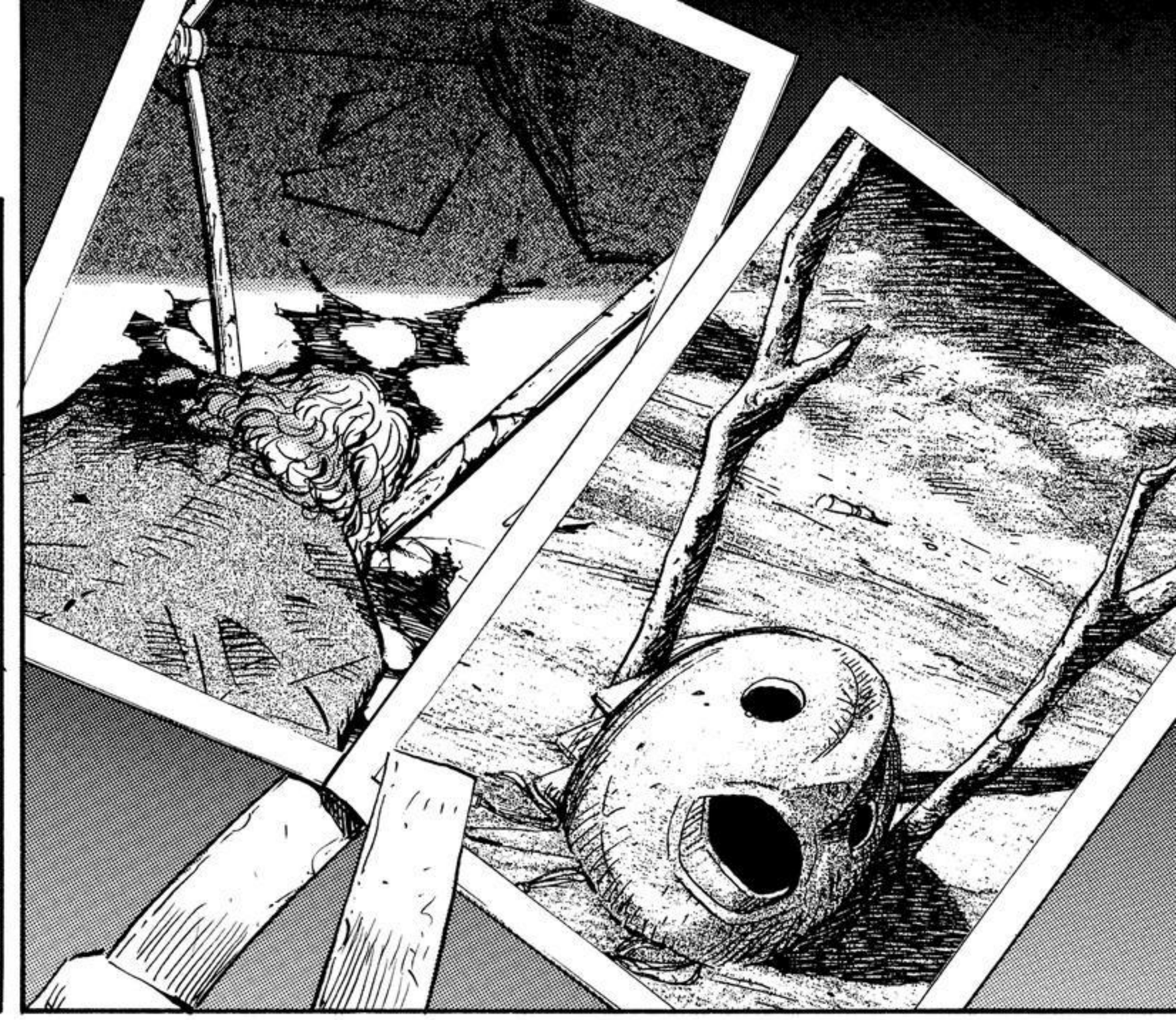

AND LOCK ME AWAY DOWN HERE IN THIS DUNGEON...
CHAK
ALL THEY CAN DO IS JUST QUIVER IN FEAR...
BZZT
VZZT

ZRK
BZNT
PZAP
HEH HEH HEH



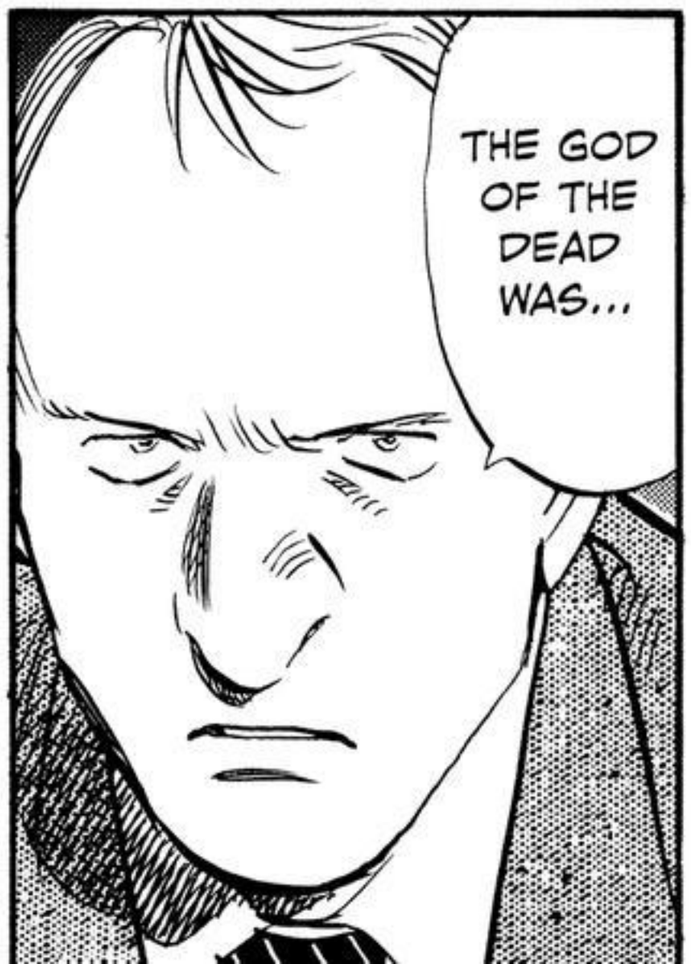


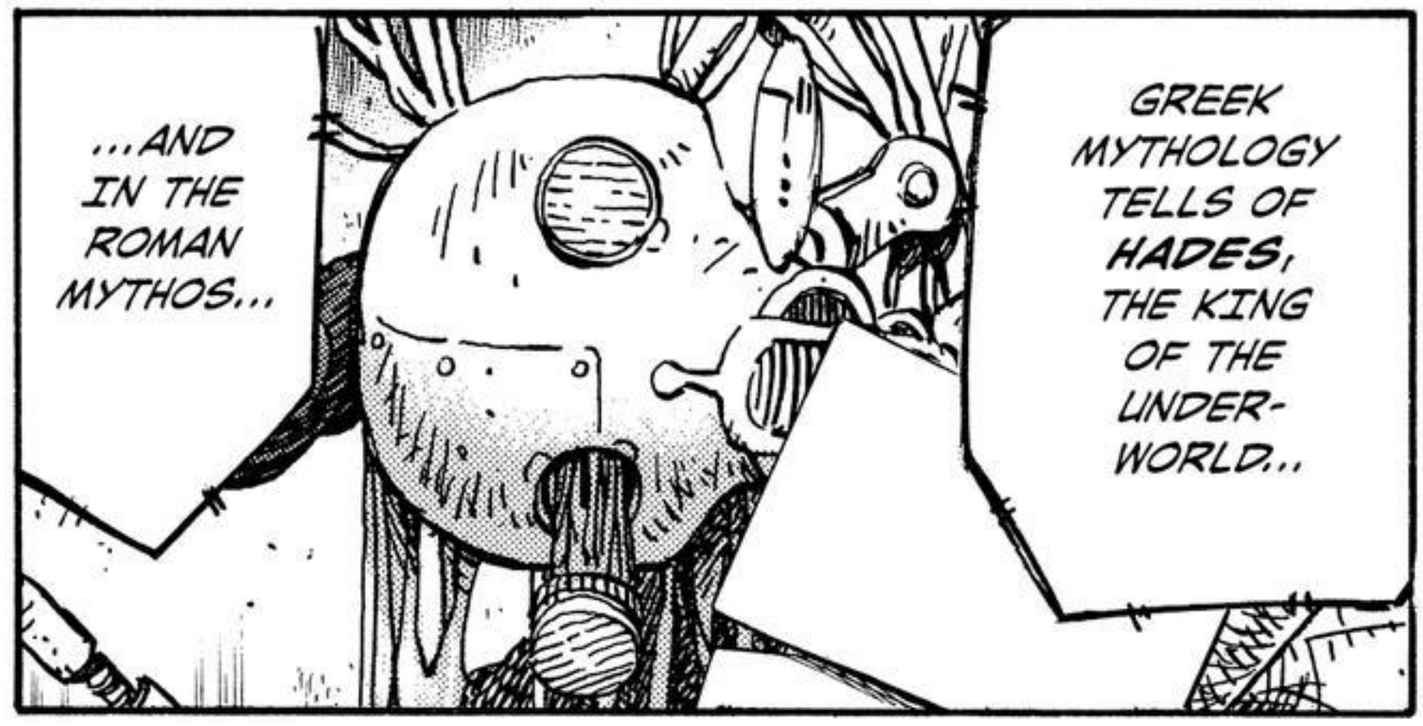
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THOSE HORNS?



BZZZ
AND THERE WAS HERNE THE HUNTER IN ENGLAND, WHO STOLE WARRIORS' SOULS. HE WAS CALLED THE KING OF HORNS...
BZZZT

THE GOD OF DEATH WAS OFTEN DEPICTED WITH HORNS...
BZZZ
IN ANCIENT EUROPEAN MYTHS...


THE GOD OF THE DEAD WAS...


...AND IN THE ROMAN MYTHOS...
GREEK MYTHOLOGY TELLS OF HADES, THE KING OF THE UNDER-WORLD...

PLUTO ...

PLUTO.

CREEK

LEAVING SO SOON ...?

BZZT...

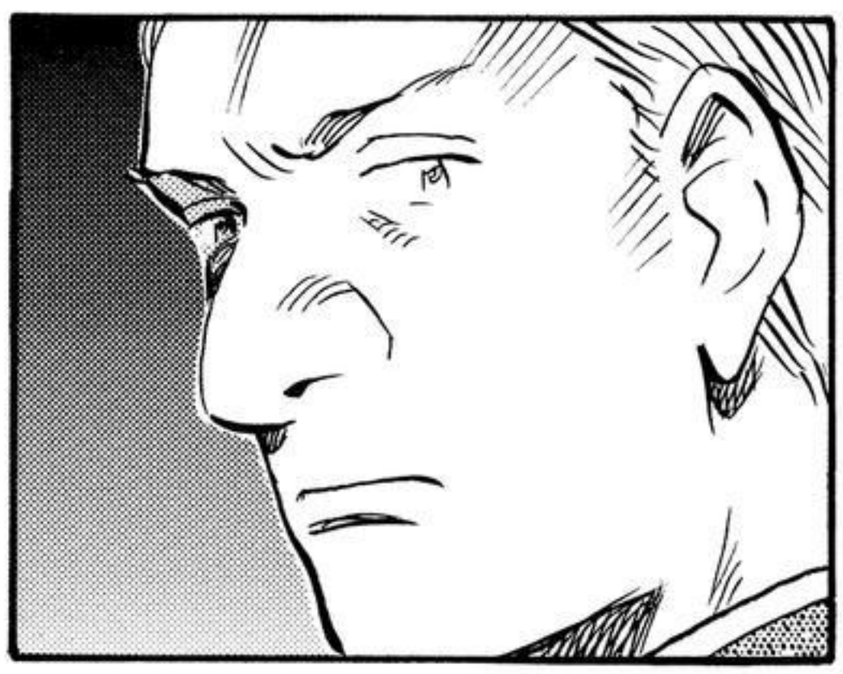
BZZT...

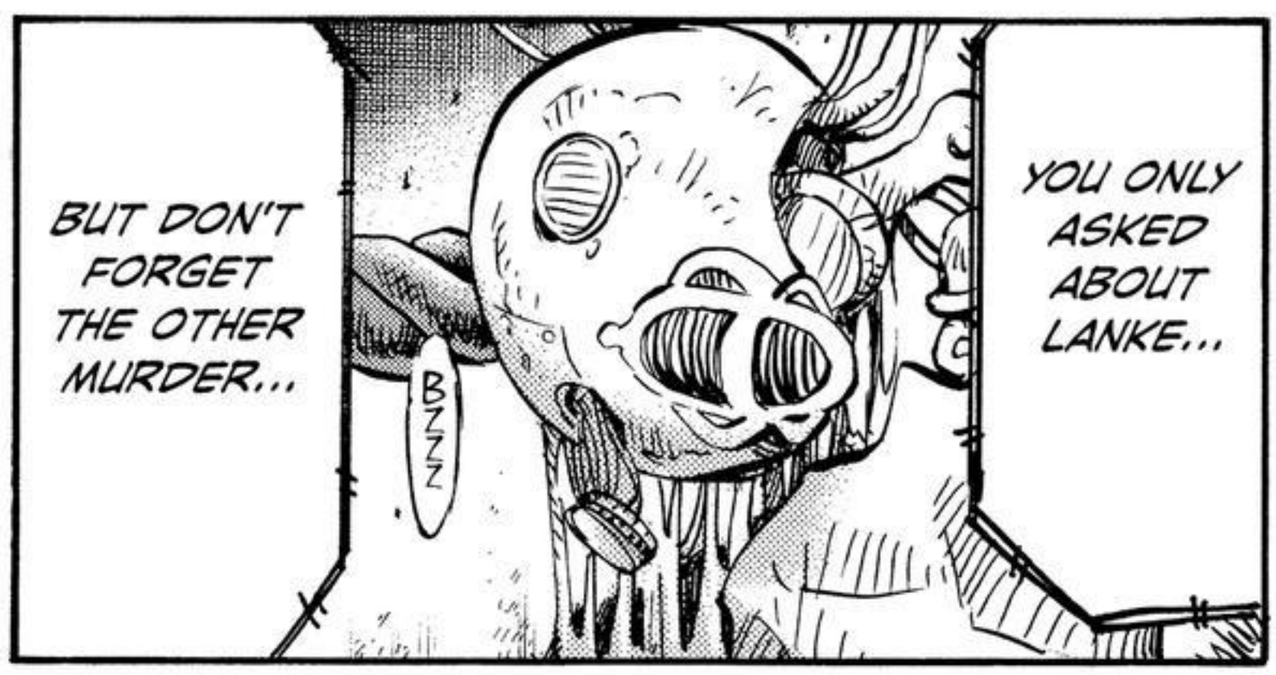
I MAY COME BACK AGAIN...

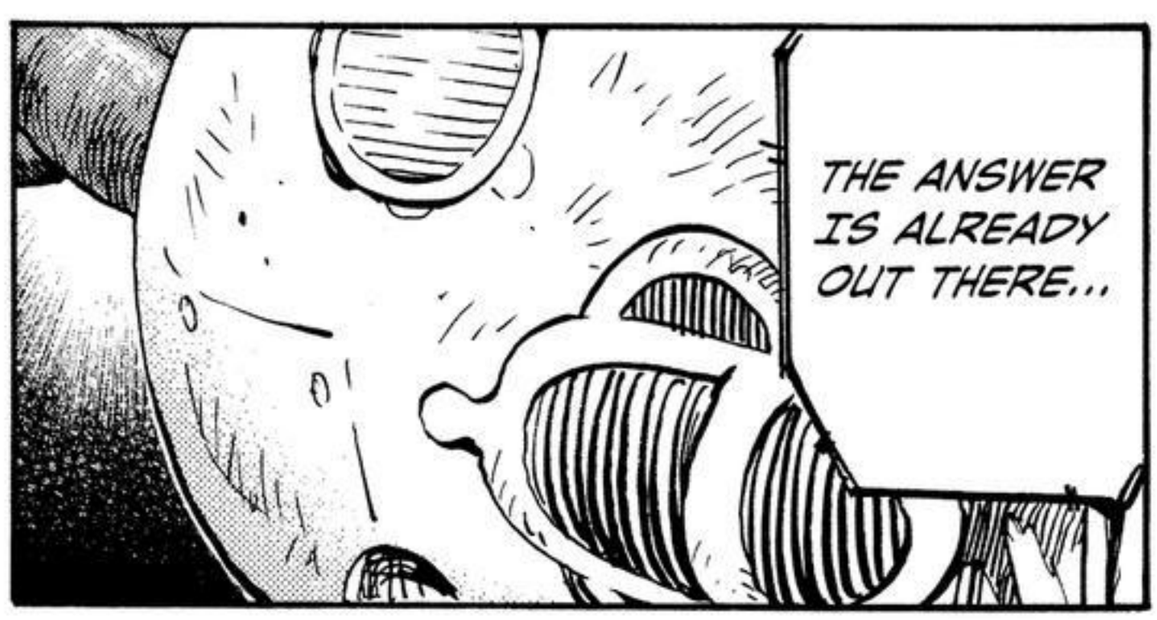
HEH HEH HEH ...

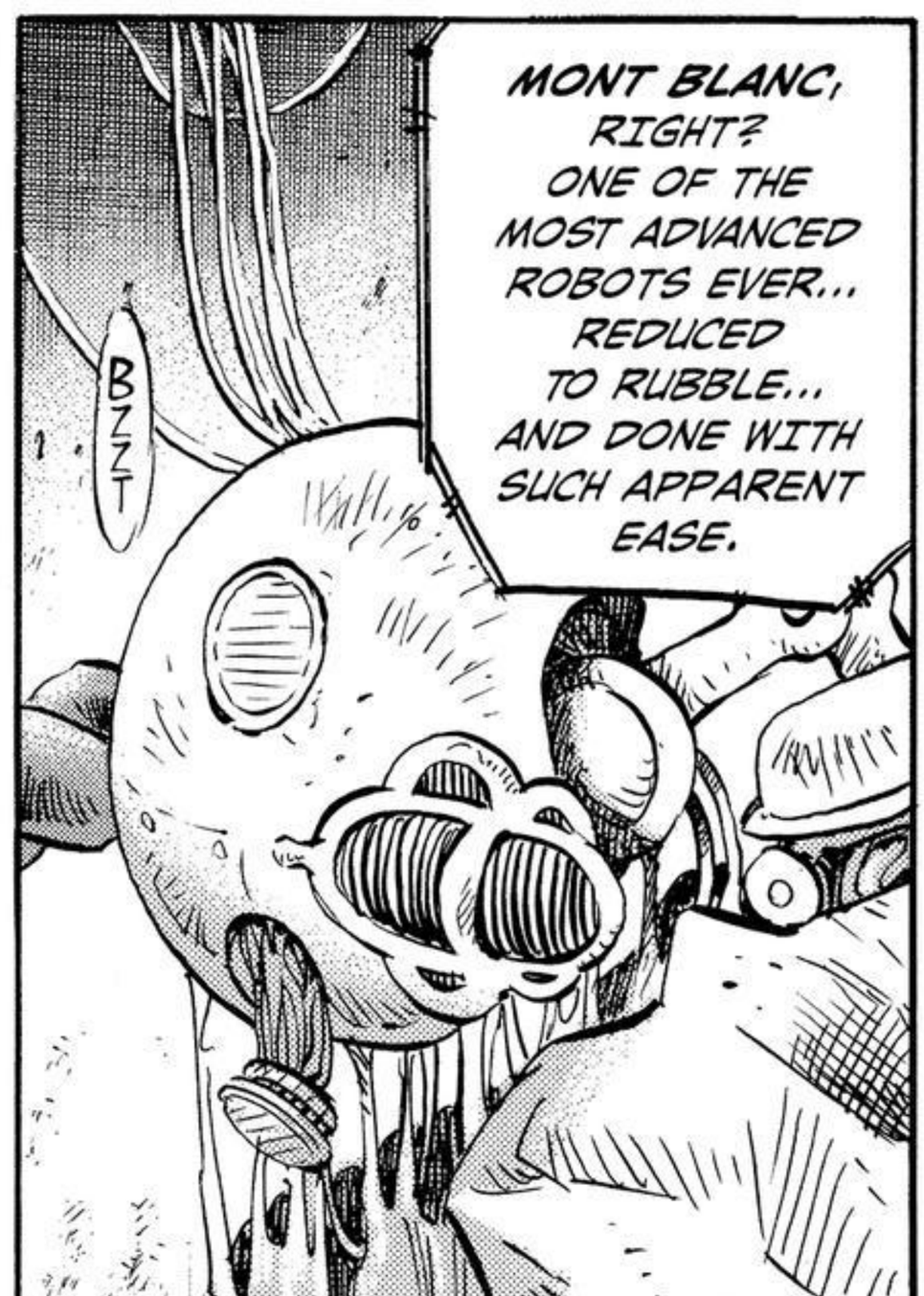
WELL, NEXT TIME, WE MOST CERTAINLY SHOULD EXCHANGE MEMORY CHIPS, DON'T YOU THINK?

MORE MURDERS TO COME, YES...

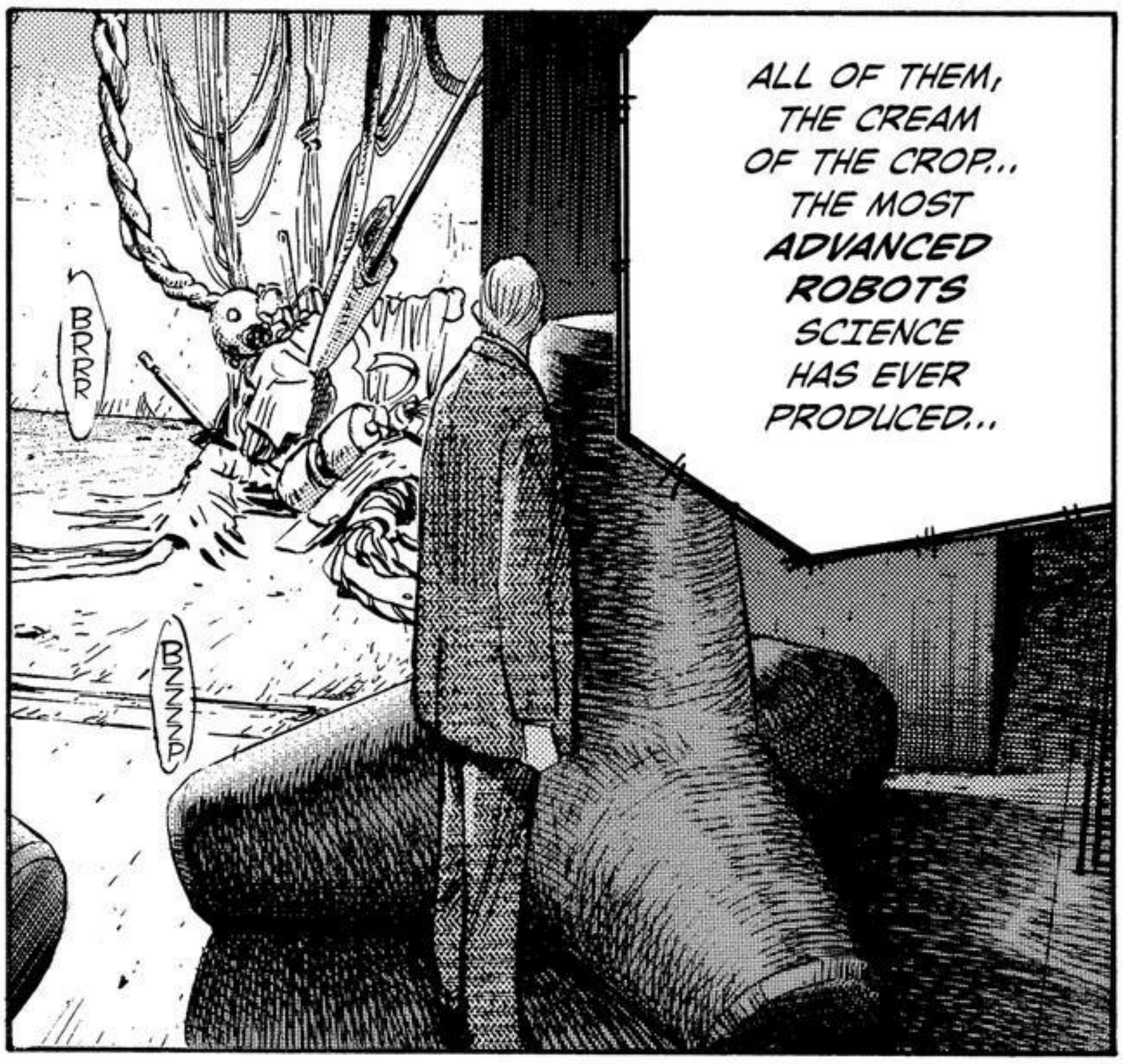


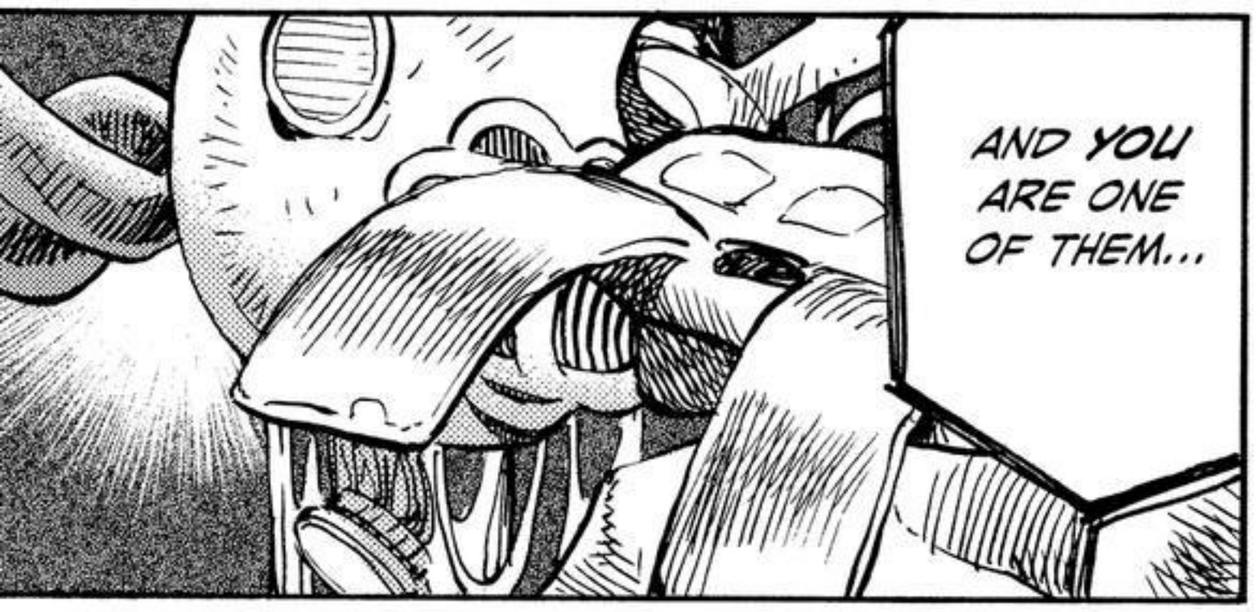


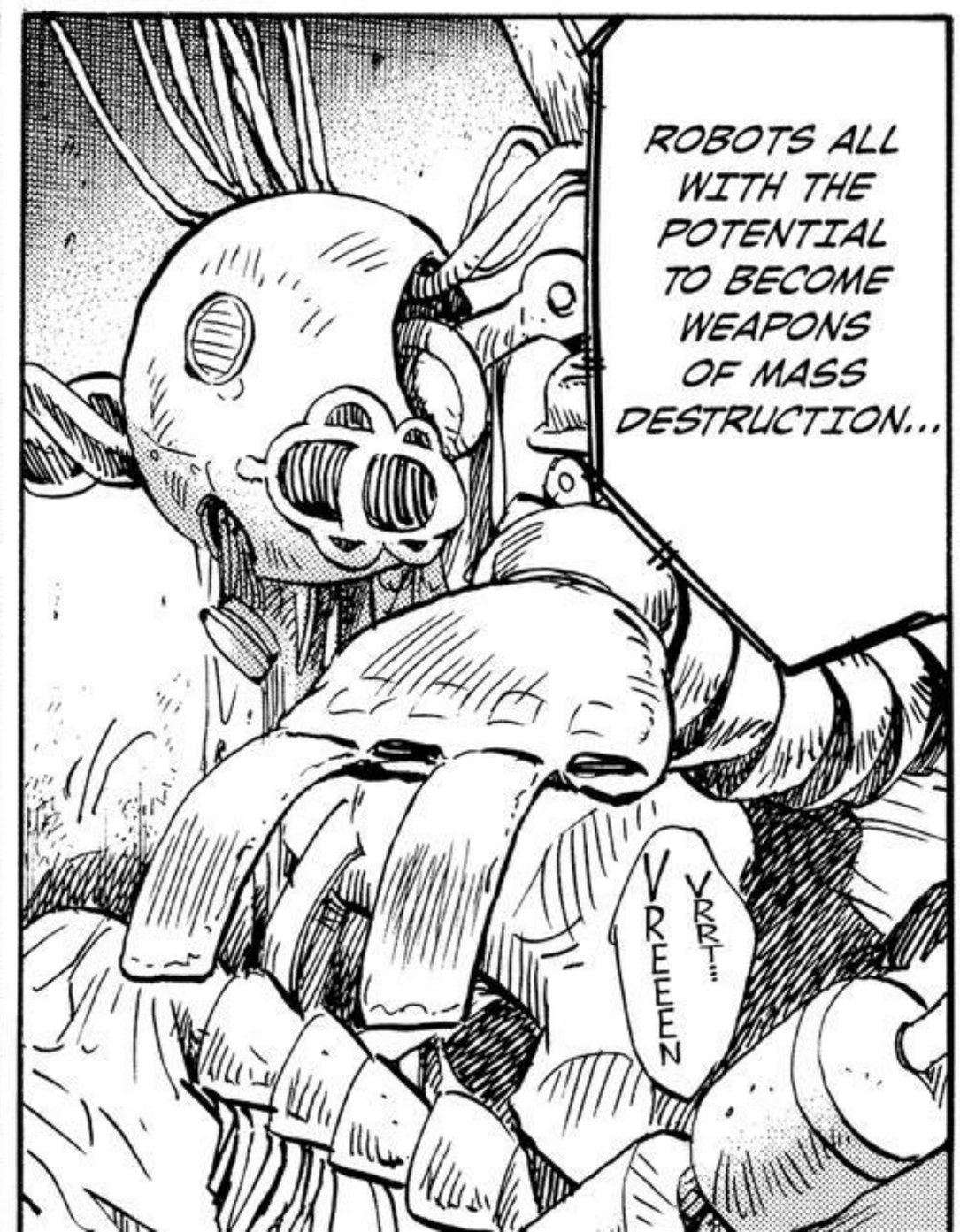


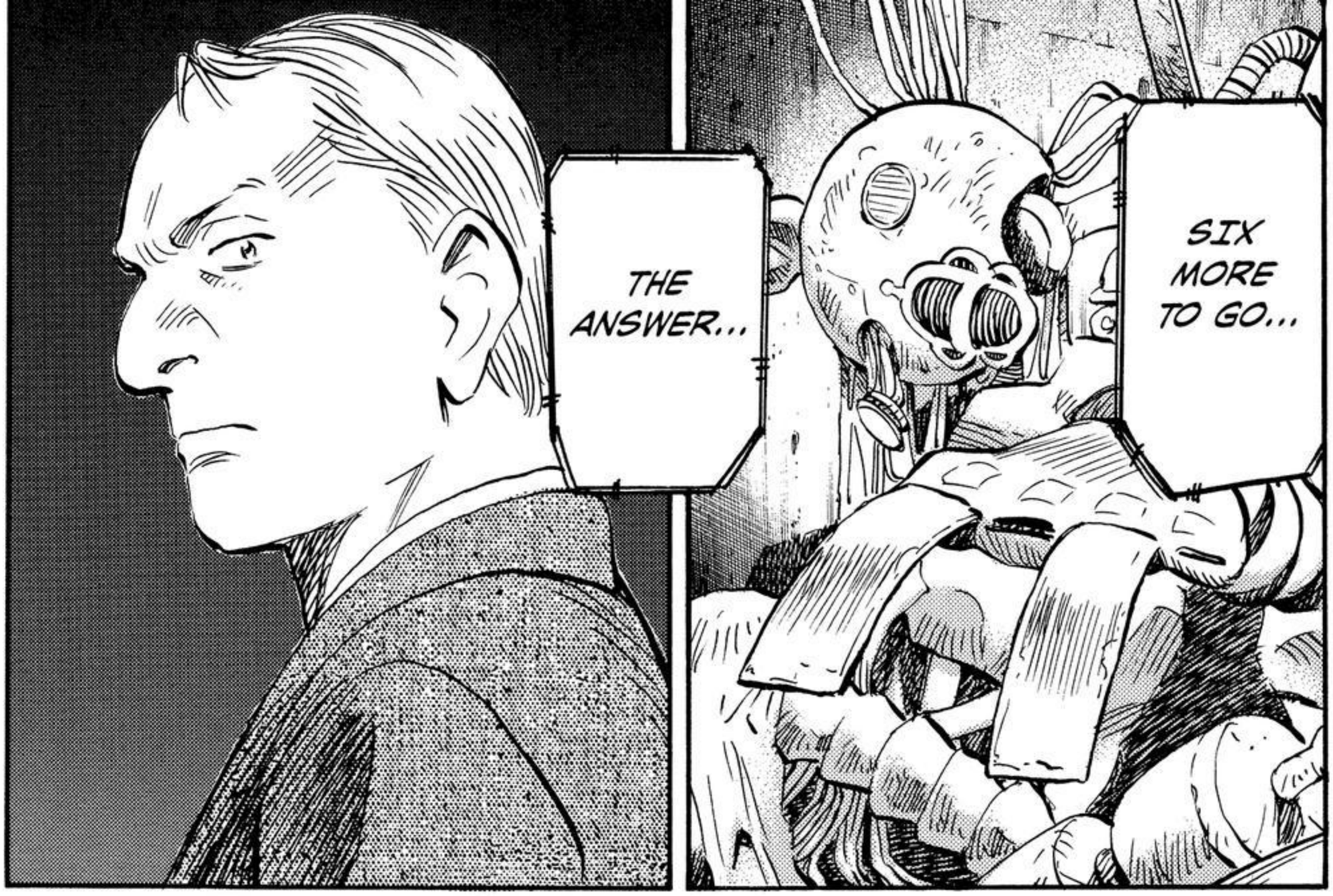


THERE ARE SIX MORE TO GO!





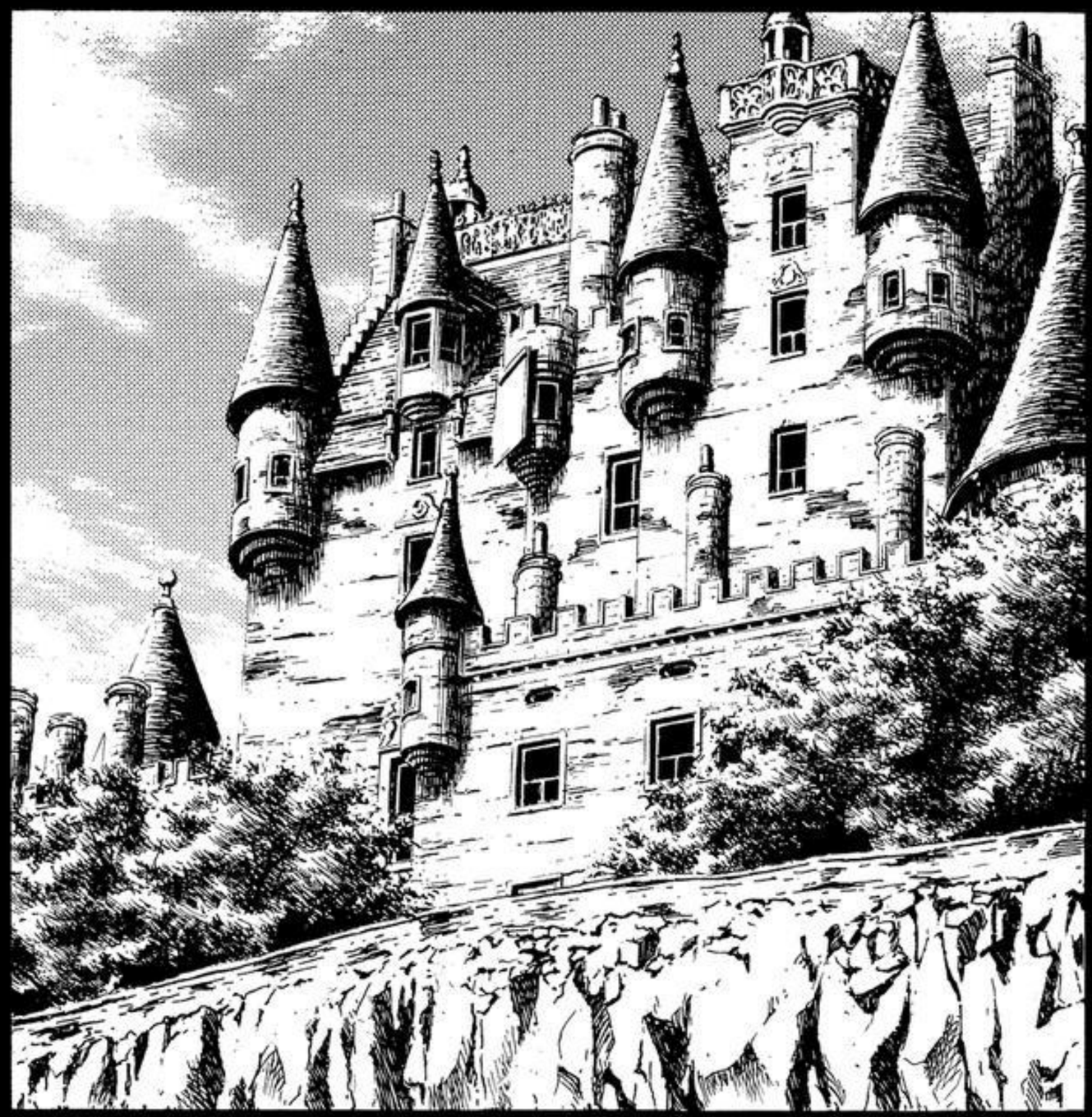


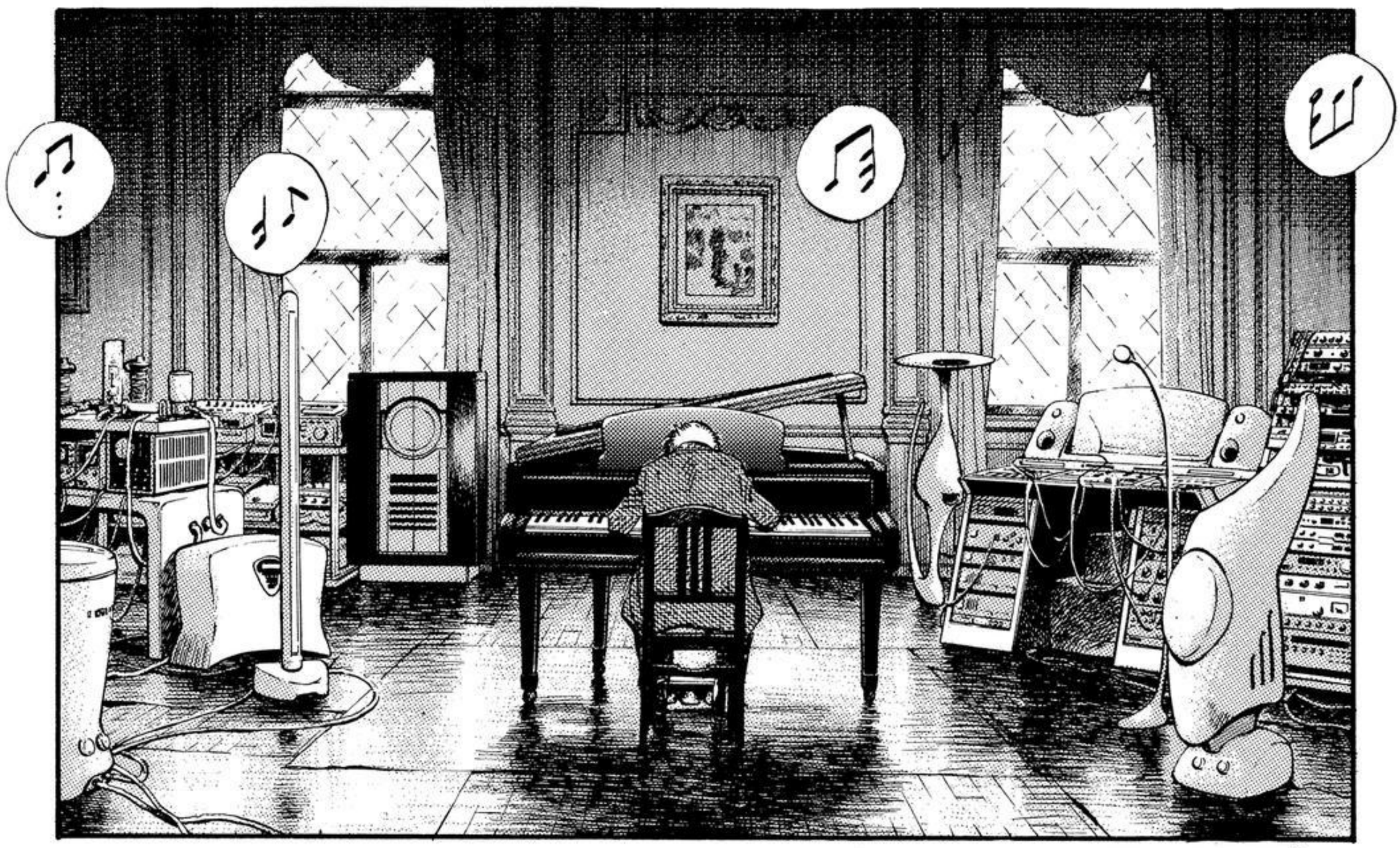

THE ANSWER...
SIX MORE TO GO...

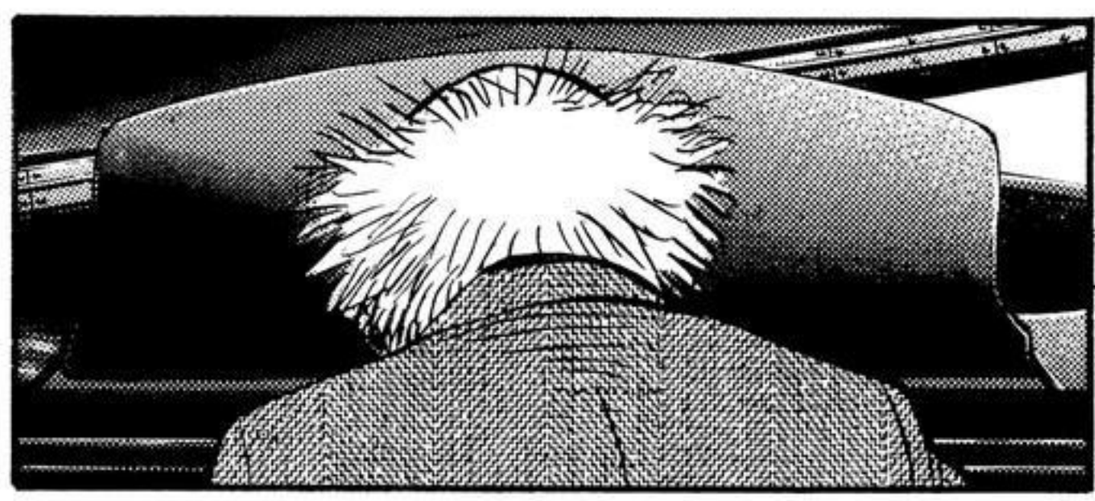
...IS ALREADY DONE...

SCOTLAND,
EURO FEDERATION

Act 4 NORTH No. 2 (Part 1)







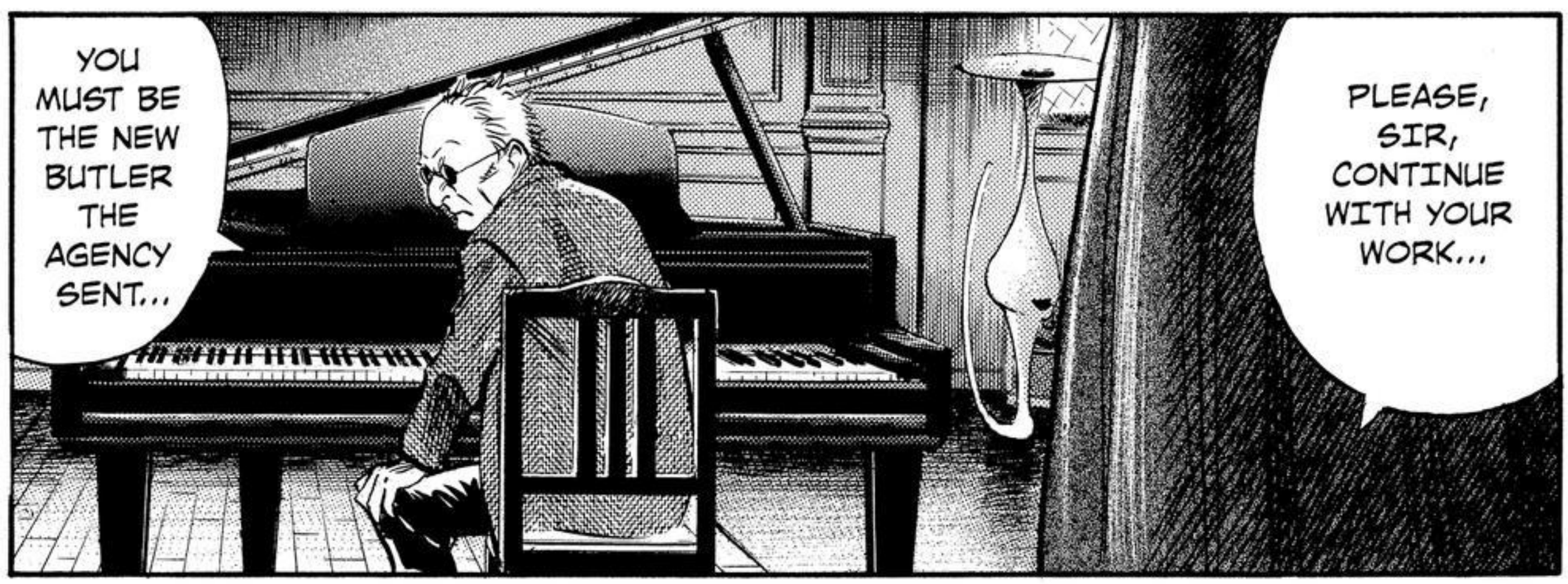
HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE WITH YOU STANDING THERE!!
I'M WORKING HERE!!

BAANGG

THAT'S NOT PRUDENT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOURSELF, WHO CAN'T SEE...

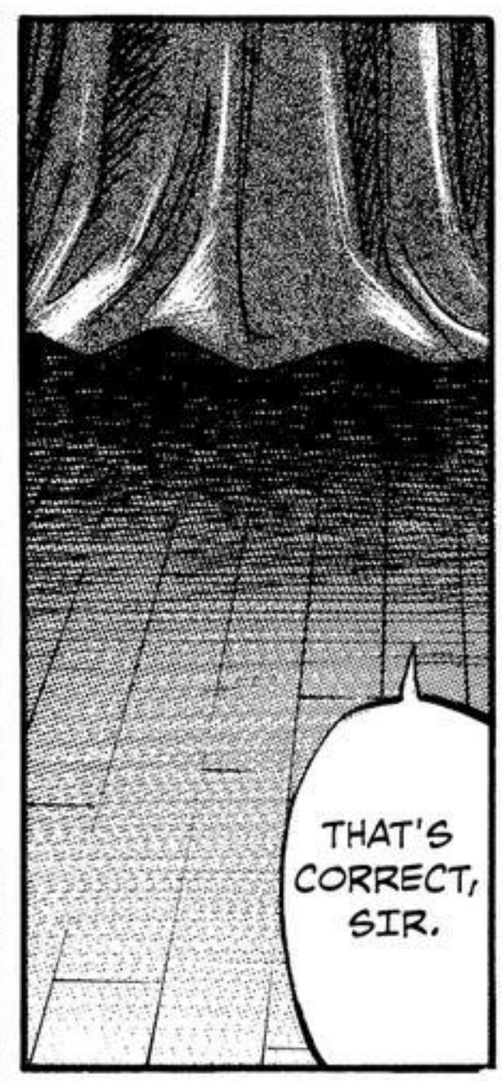
HMPH! NO BURGLAR'D COME ALL THE WAY TO THESE LONELY HIGHLANDS TO STEAL FROM ME...

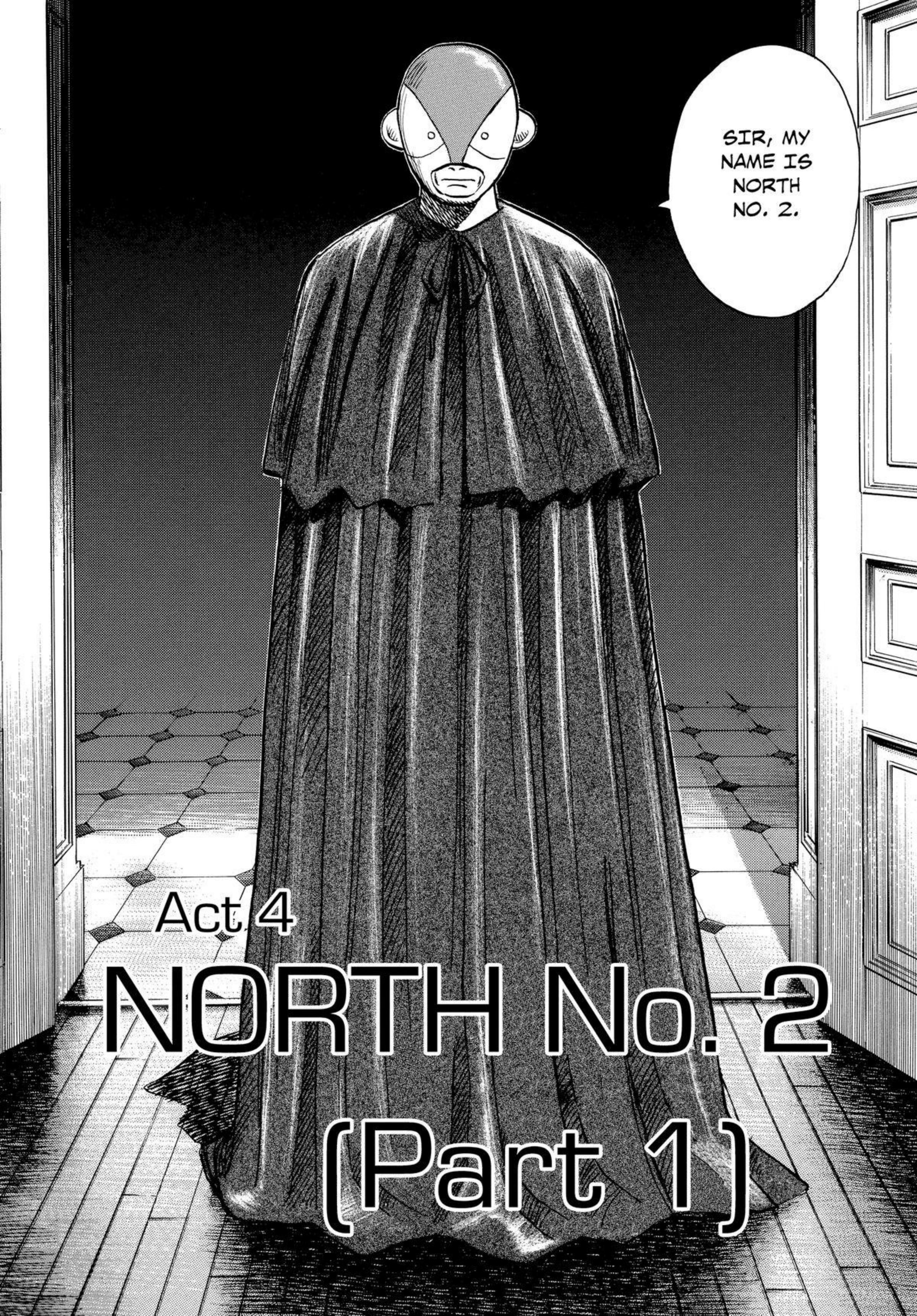
PLEASE, SIR. EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING...
THE CASTLE'S SECURITY SYSTEM HAS BEEN DEACTIVATED, SIR...


YOU MUST BE THE NEW BUTLER THE AGENCY SENT...
PLEASE, SIR, CONTINUE WITH YOUR WORK...

SO... WHAT'S YOUR NAME...?

AND PROBABLY AS USELESS AS ALL THE OTHERS...

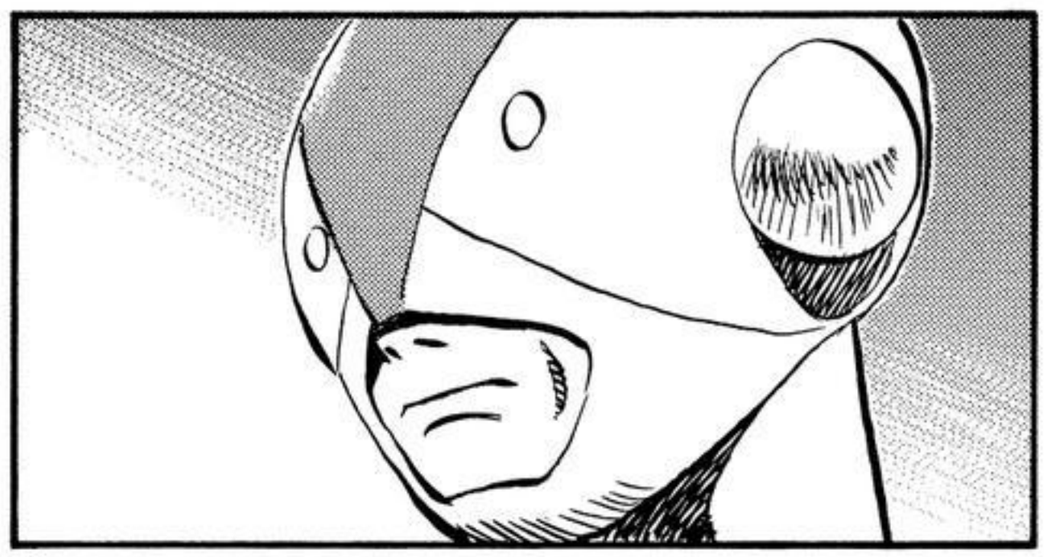

THAT'S CORRECT, SIR.

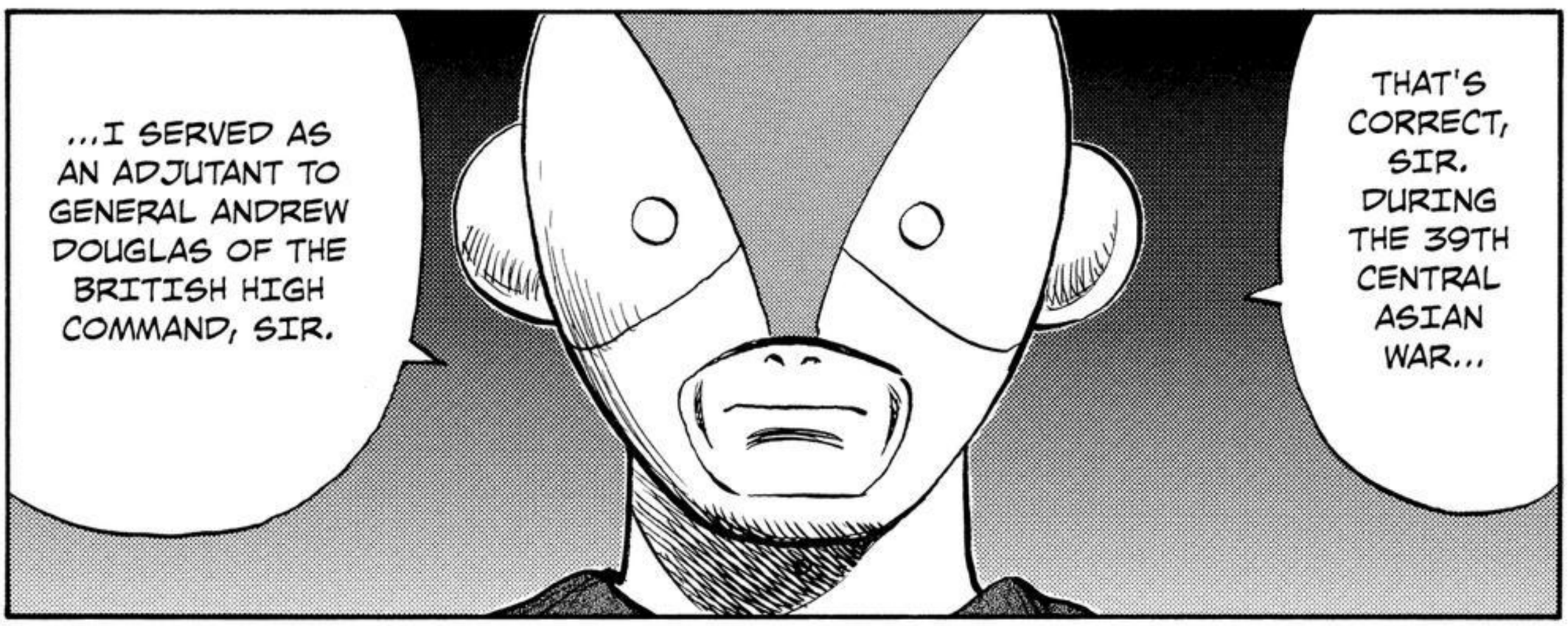


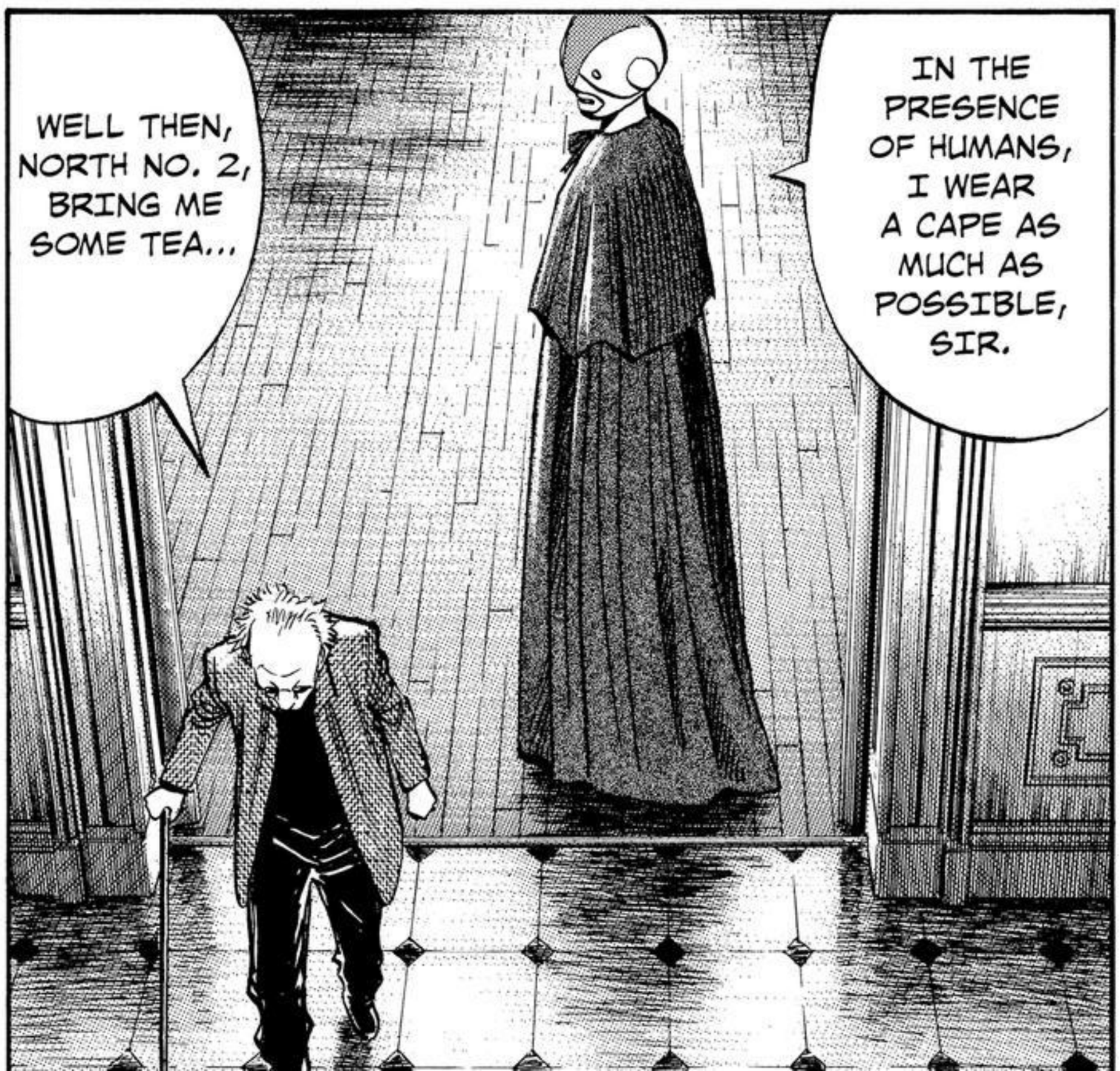
Act 4
NORTH No. 2 (Part 1)

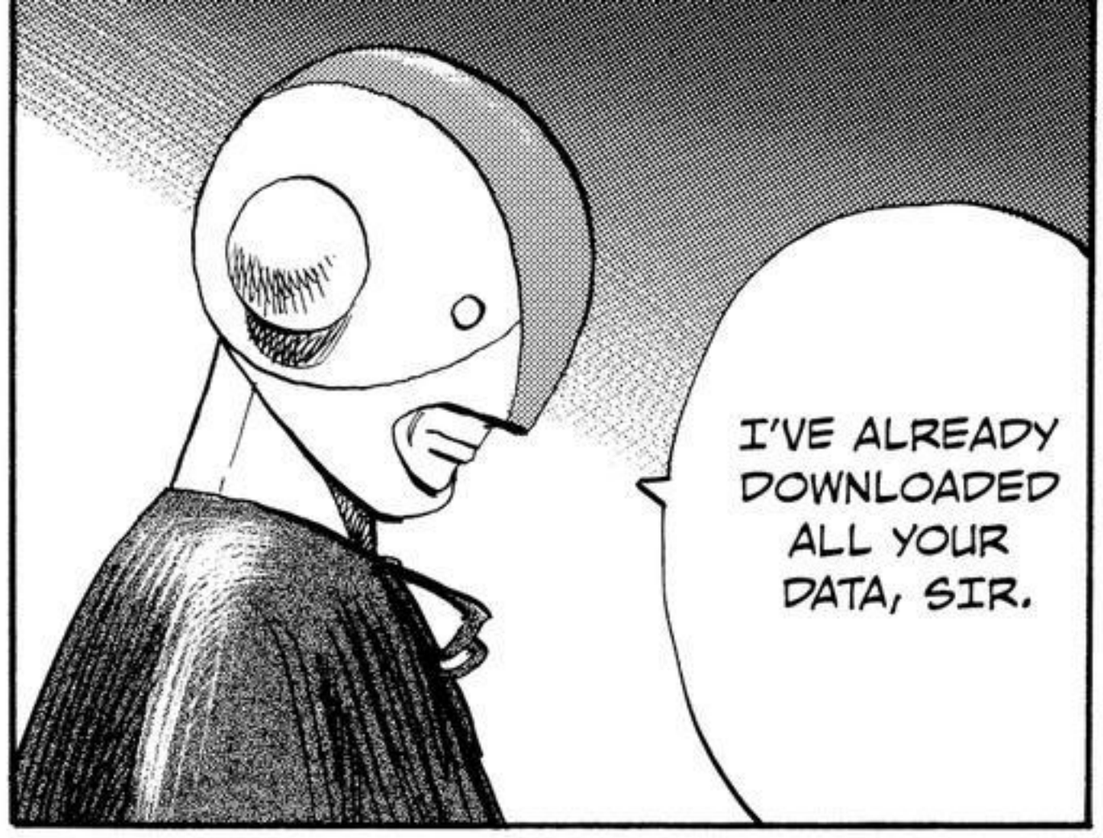
FROM WHAT THE AGENCY TELLS ME...

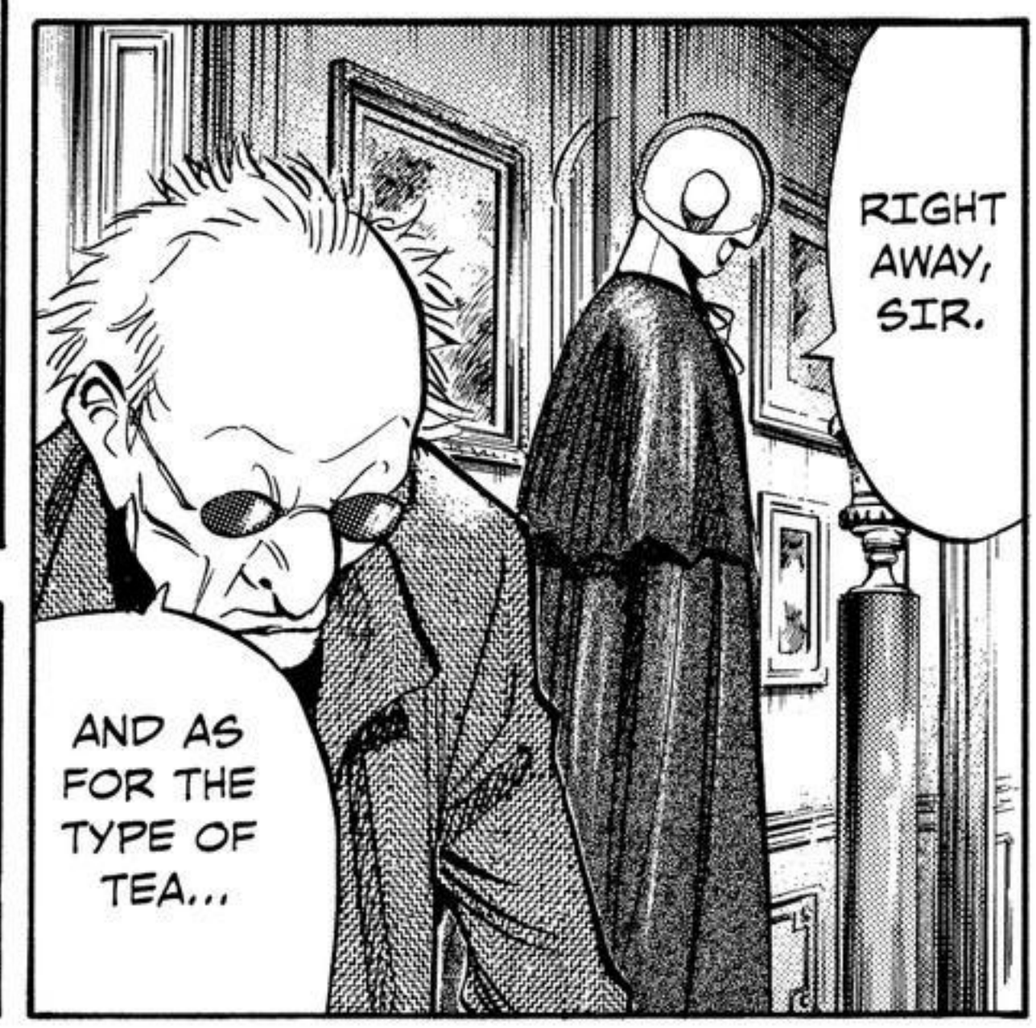
...YOU USED TO BE IN THE *MILITARY*... RIGHT?



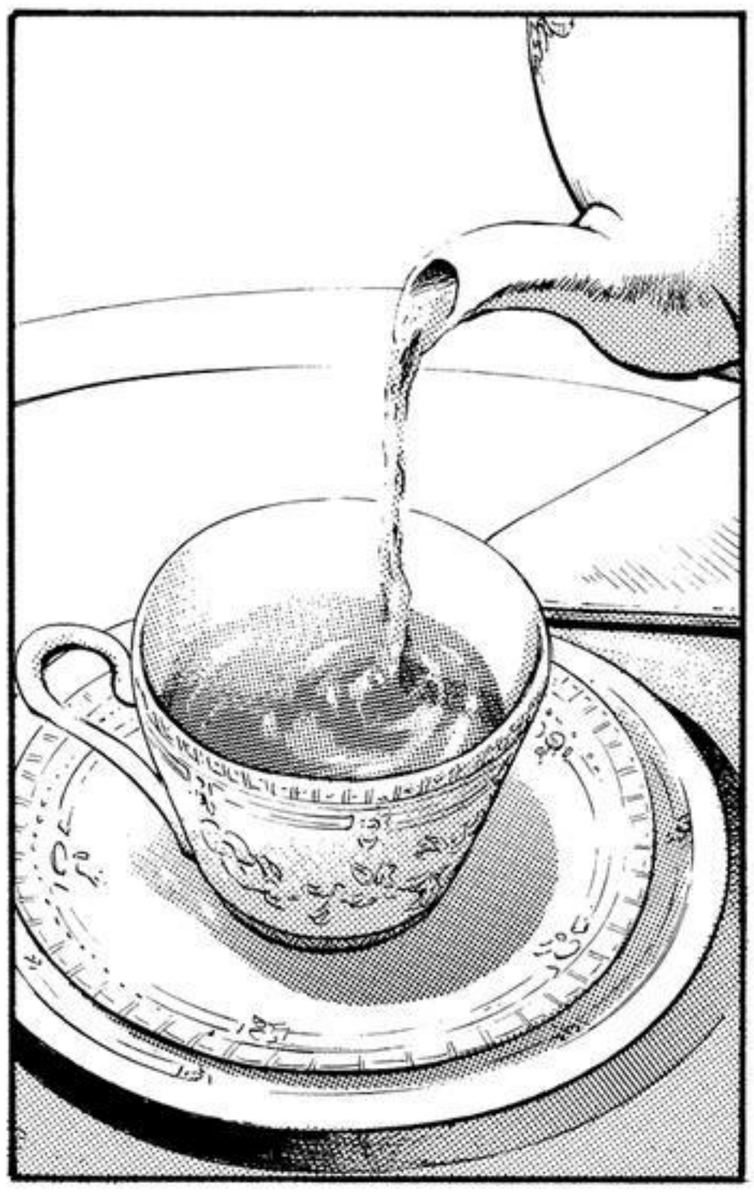


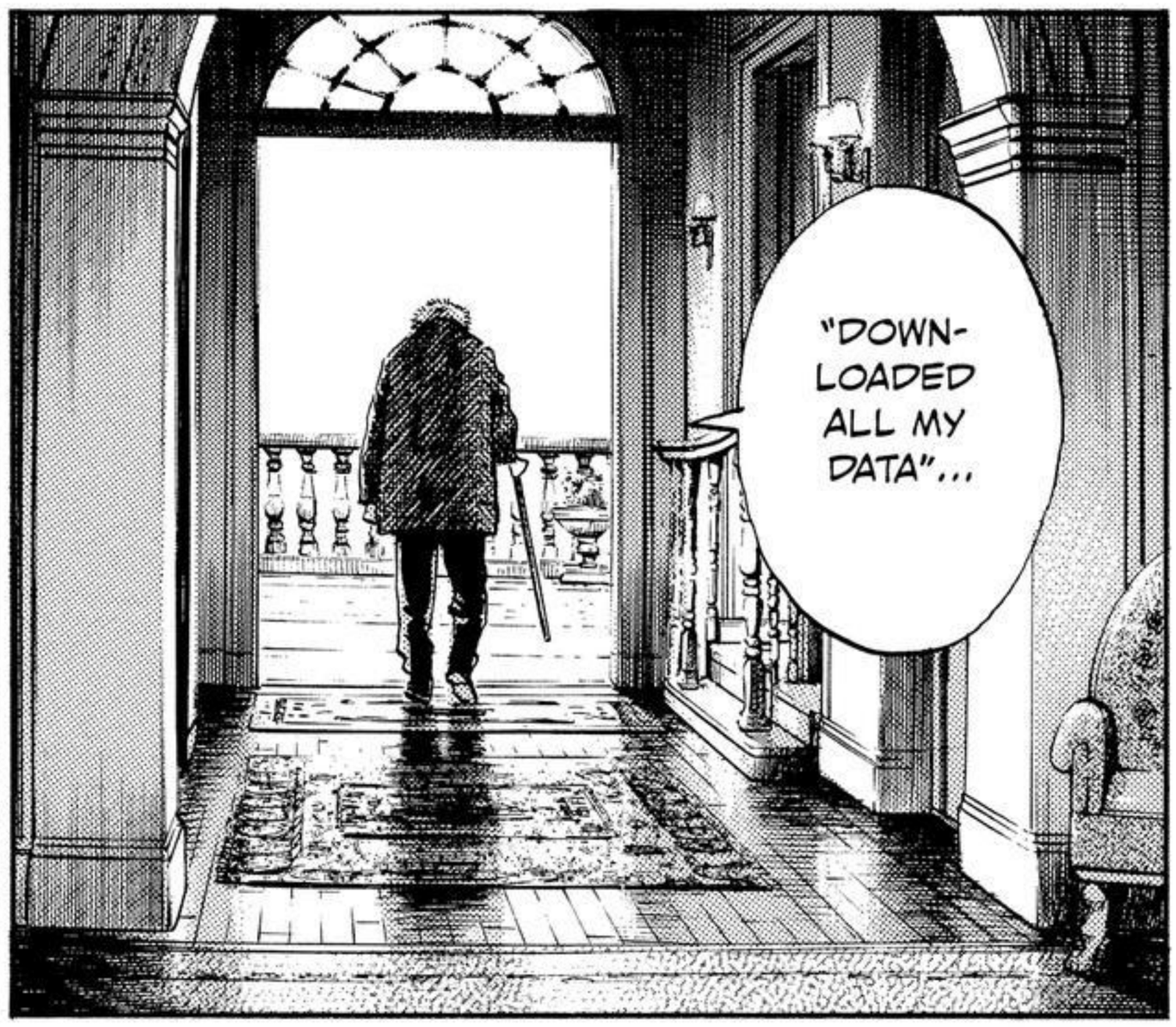


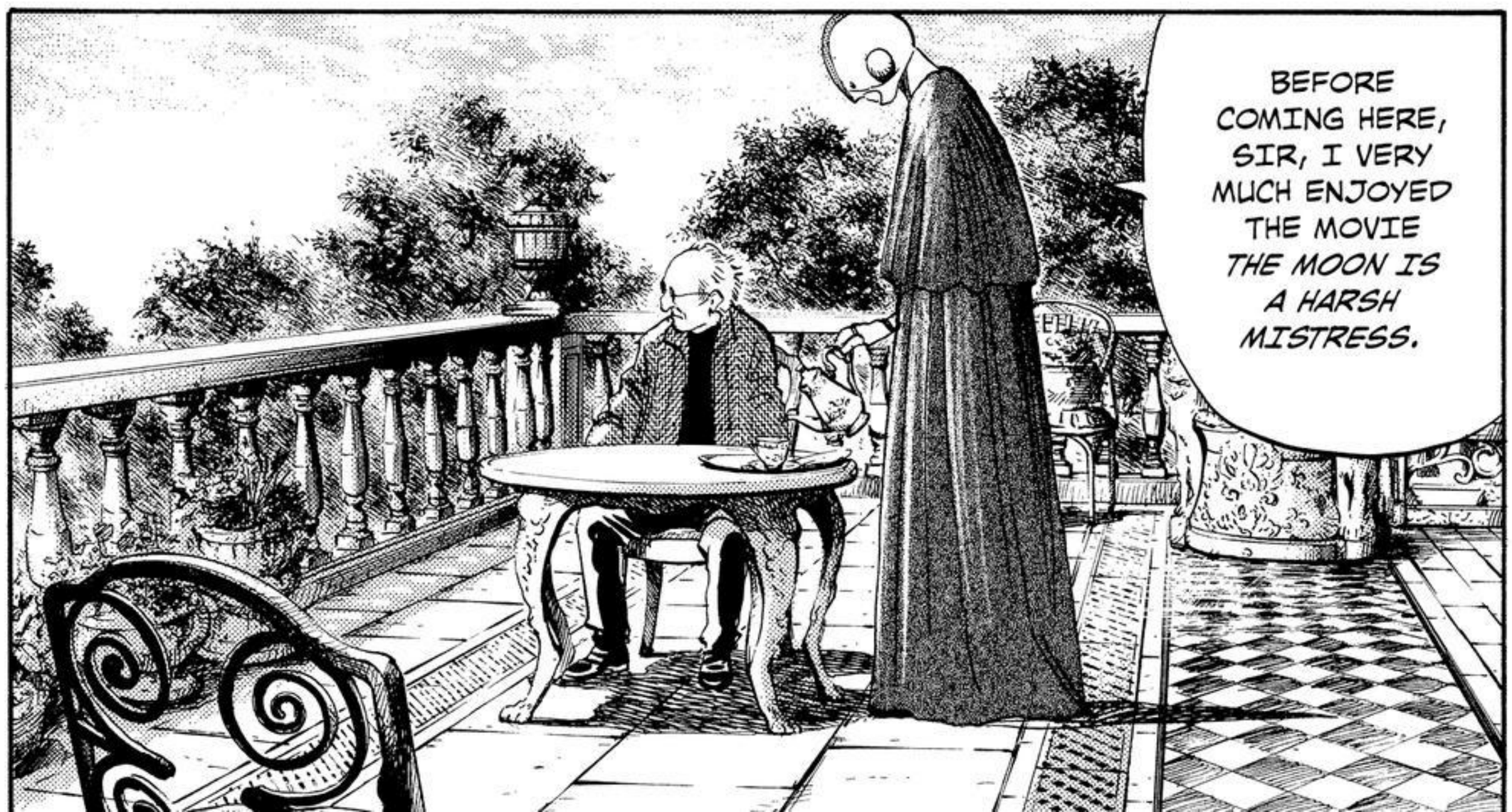

I'VE ALREADY DOWNLOADED ALL YOUR DATA, SIR.

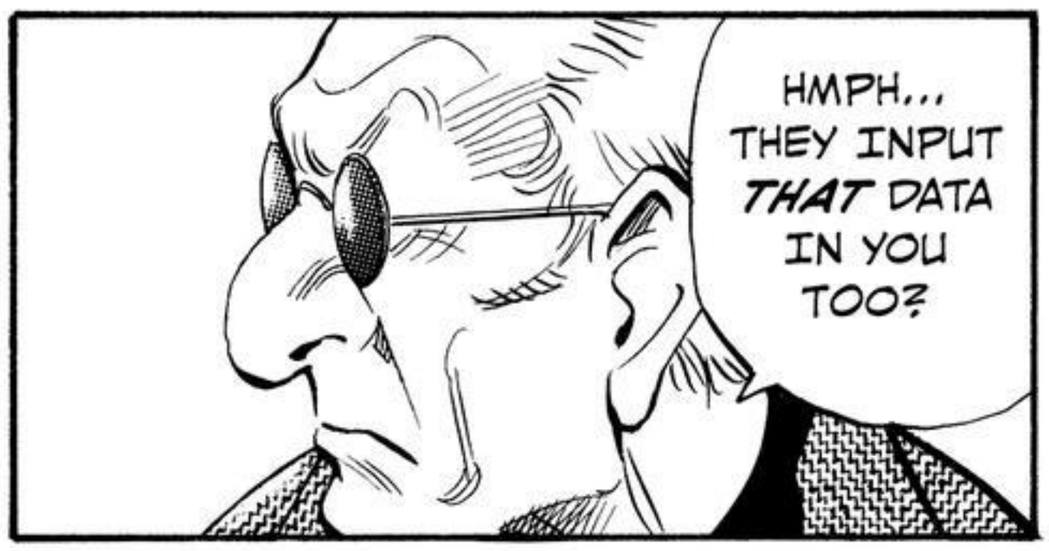

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
AND AS FOR THE TYPE OF TEA...

HMPH ...

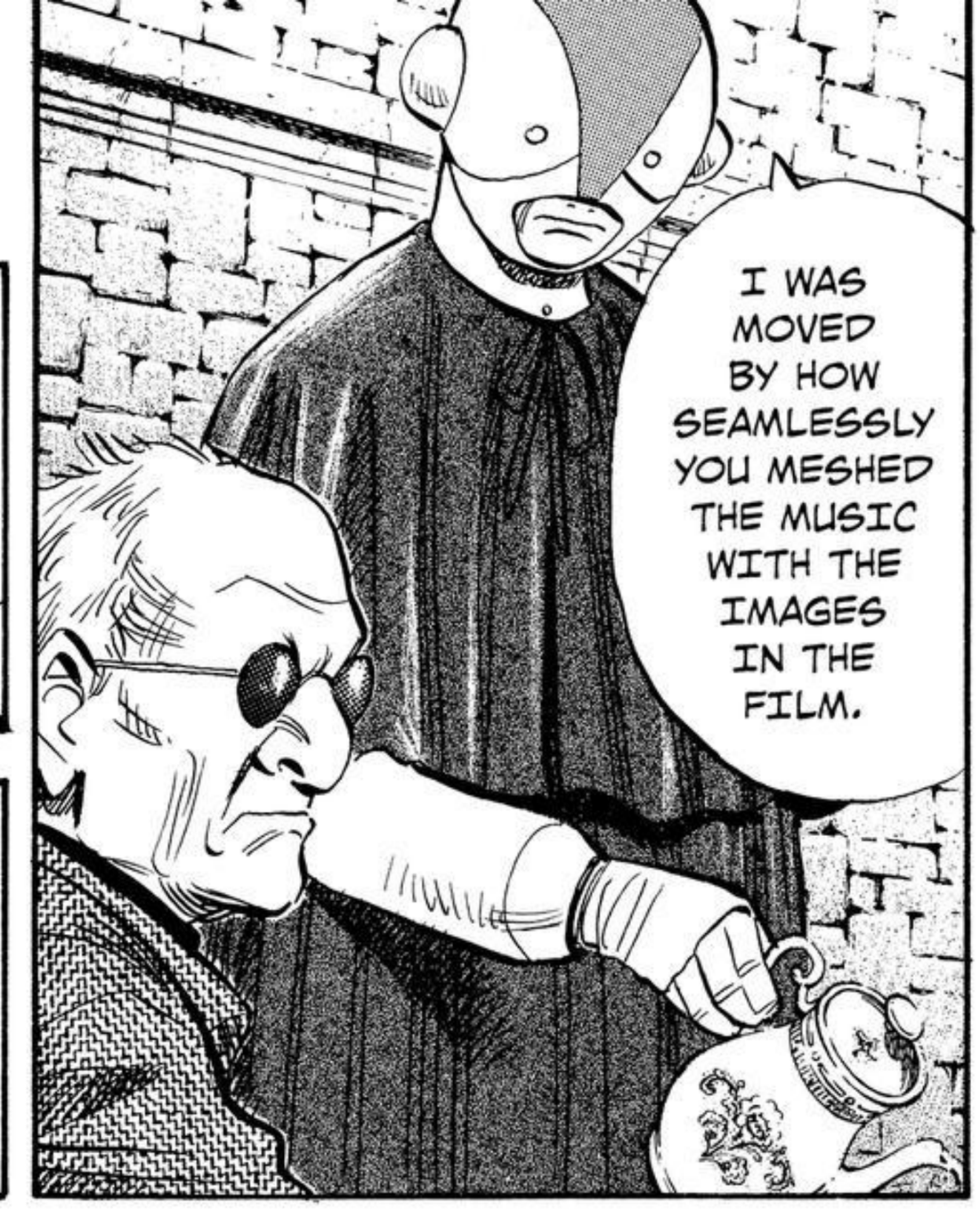


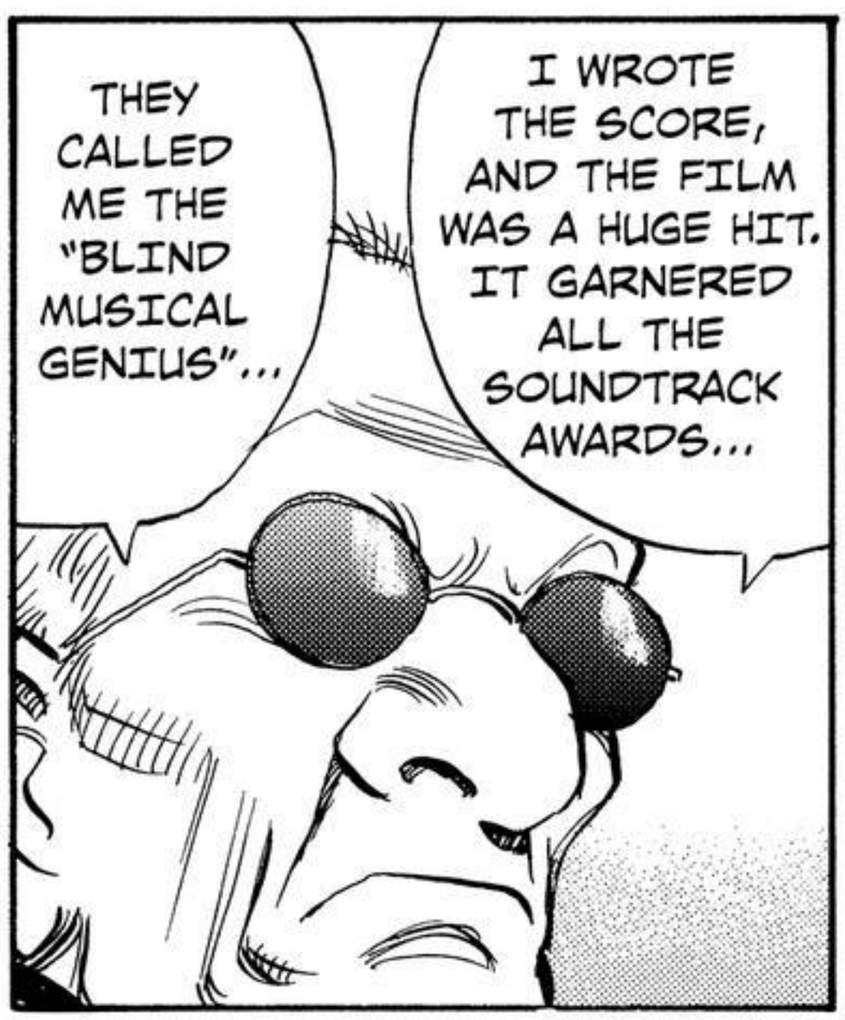

"DOWN-LOADED ALL MY DATA"...

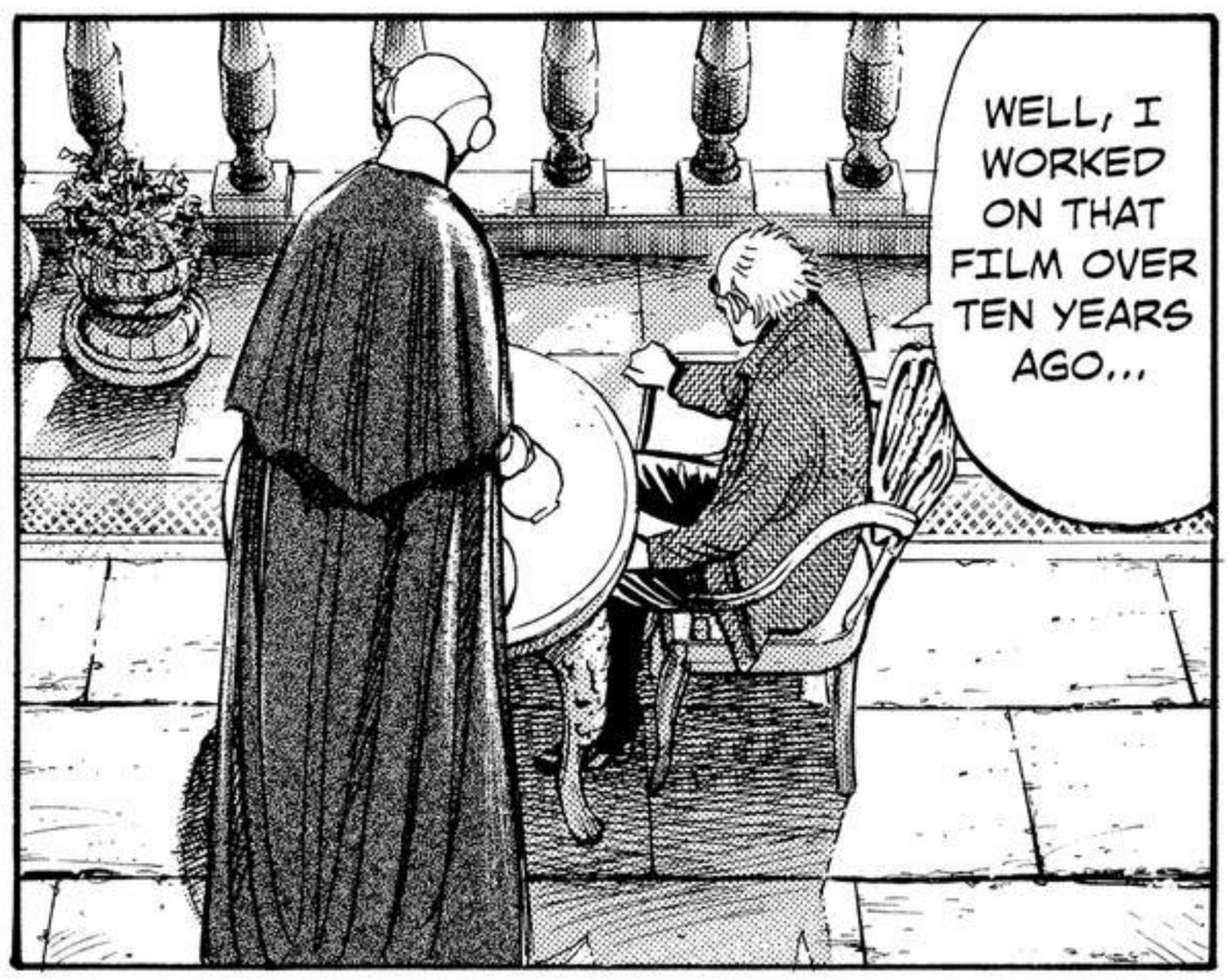

BEFORE COMING HERE, SIR, I VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE MOVIE *THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS.*


HMPH... THEY INPUT *THAT* DATA IN YOU TOO?

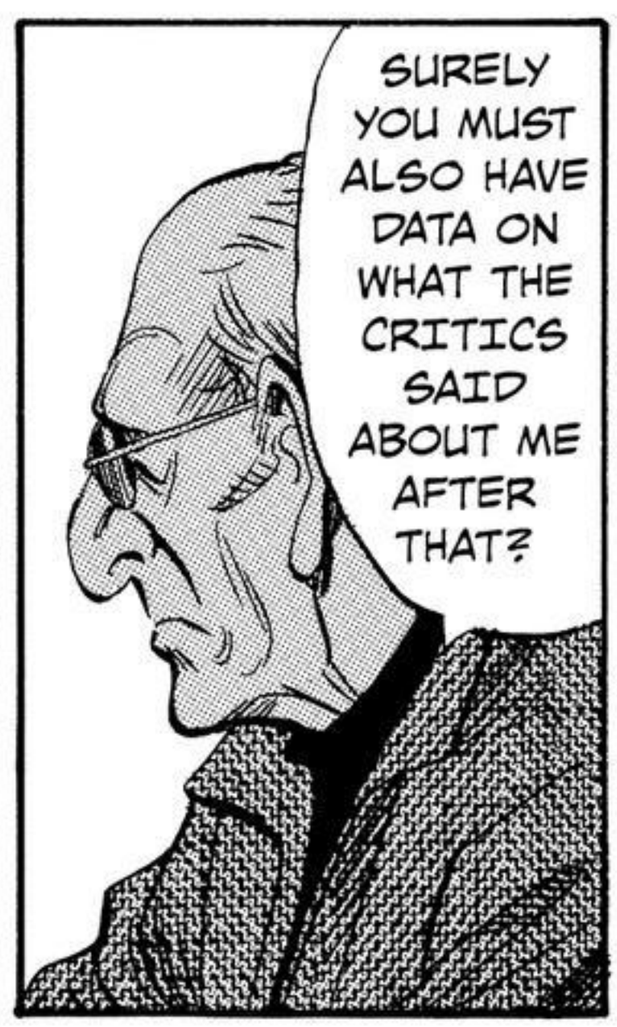
NO, SIR. I REALLY *WAS* MOVED...


I WAS MOVED BY HOW SEAMLESSLY YOU MESHED THE MUSIC WITH THE IMAGES IN THE FILM.


THEY CALLED ME THE "BLIND MUSICAL GENIUS"...
I WROTE THE SCORE, AND THE FILM WAS A HUGE HIT. IT GARNERED ALL THE SOUNDTRACK AWARDS...


WELL, I WORKED ON THAT FILM OVER TEN YEARS AGO...

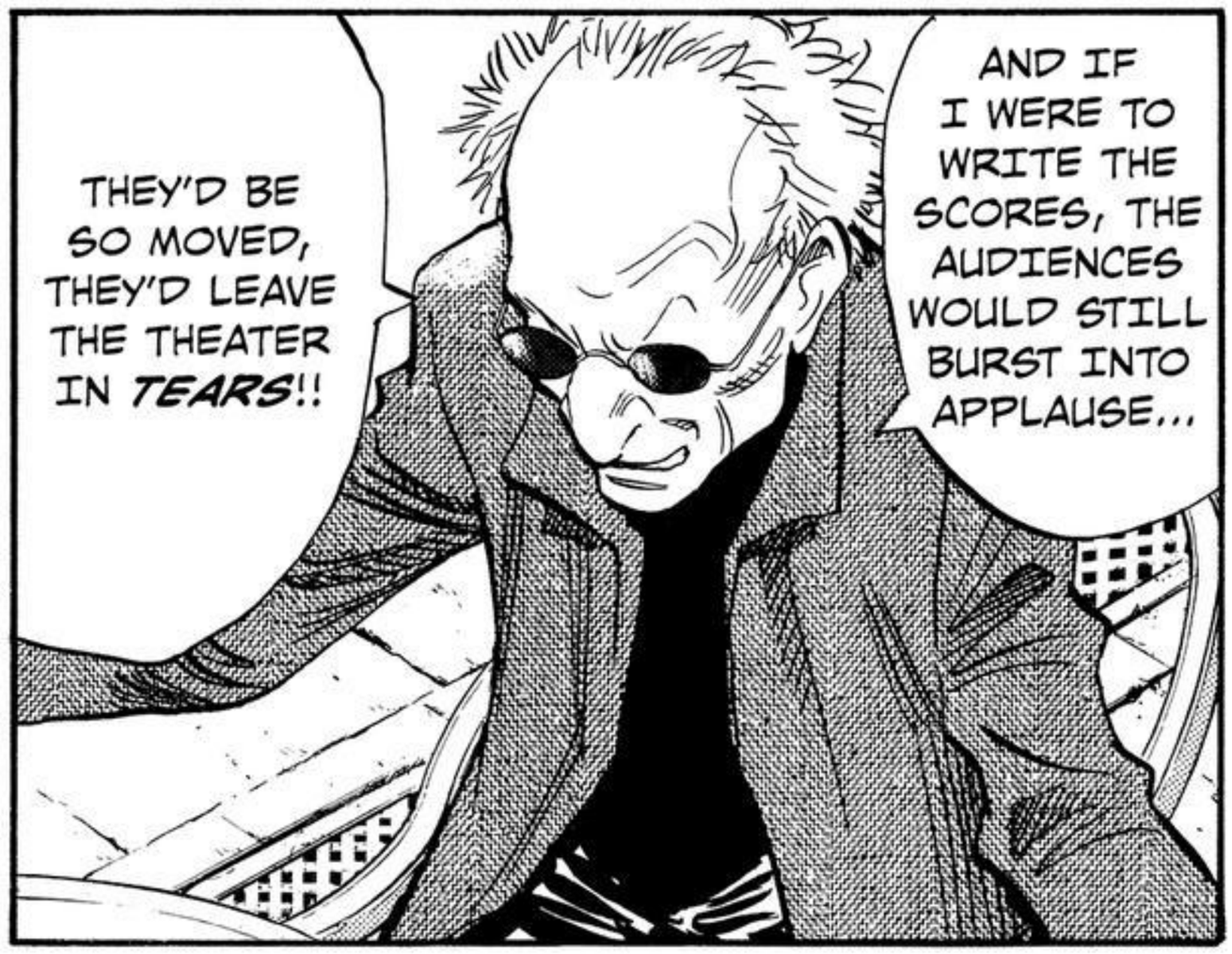
"EVEN THE TALENTED PAUL DUNCAN EVENTUALLY BURNS OUT..."

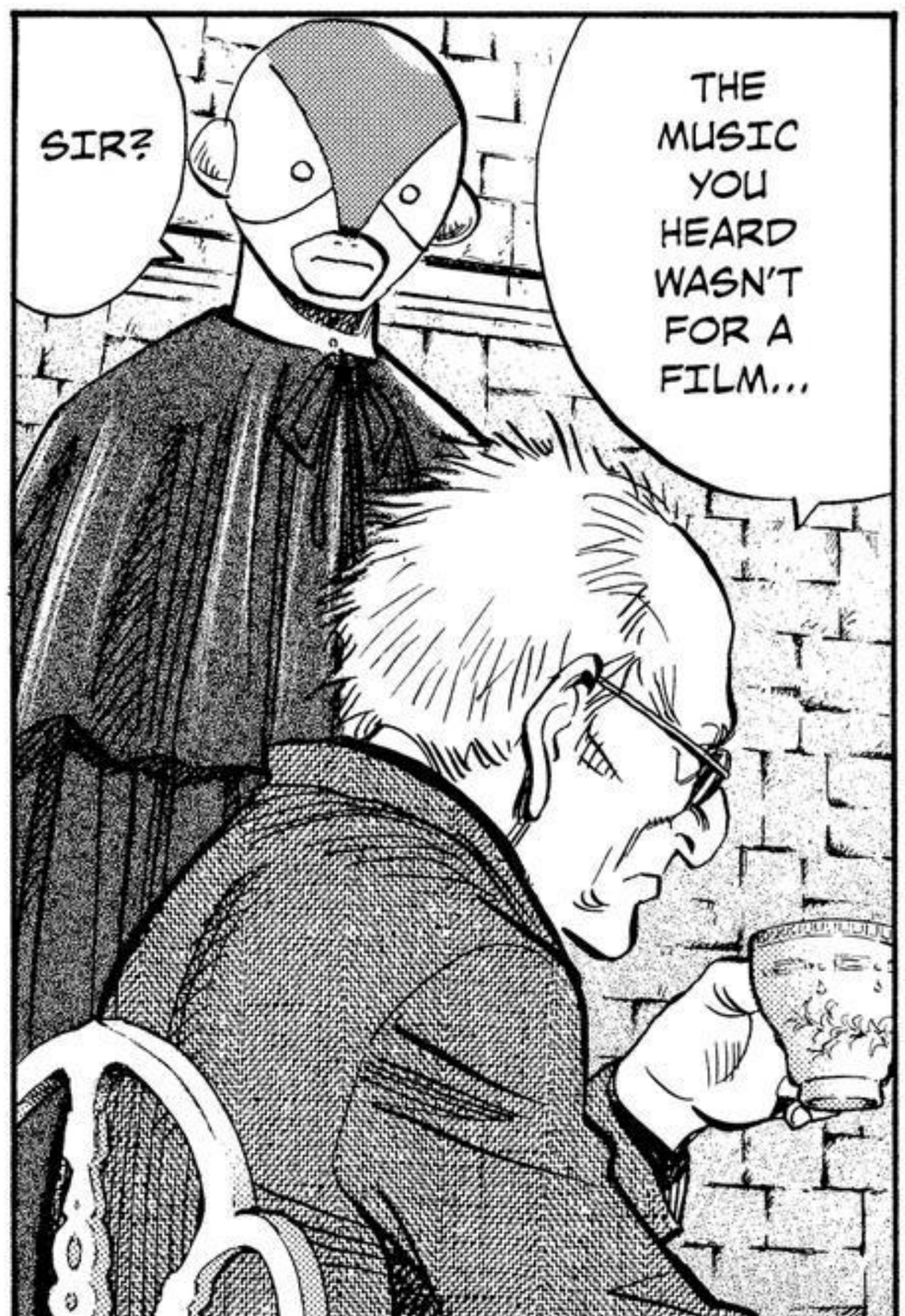

SURELY YOU MUST ALSO HAVE DATA ON WHAT THE CRITICS SAID ABOUT ME AFTER THAT?

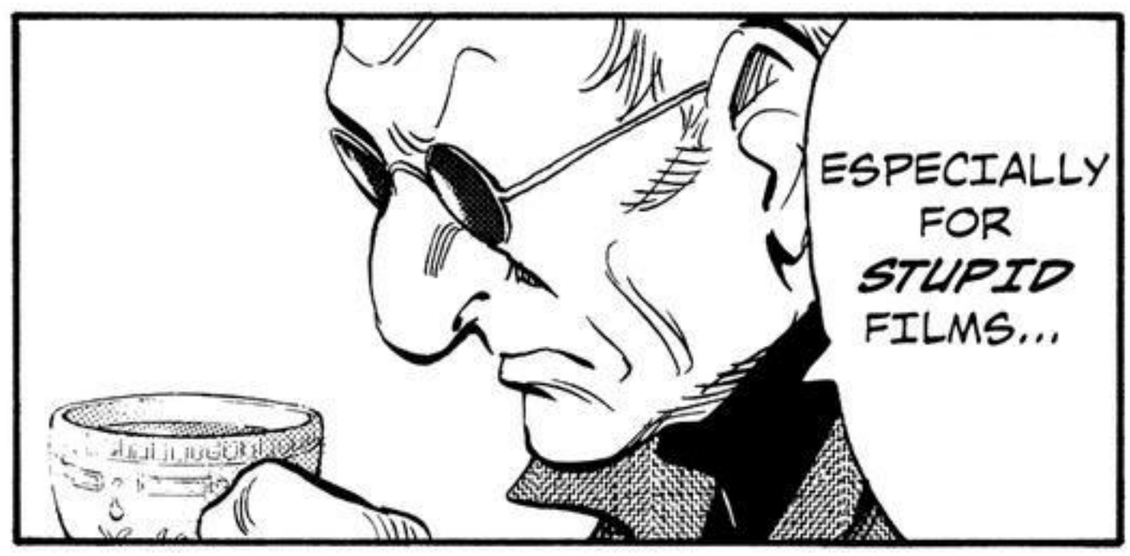
YOUR TEA IS READY, SIR.

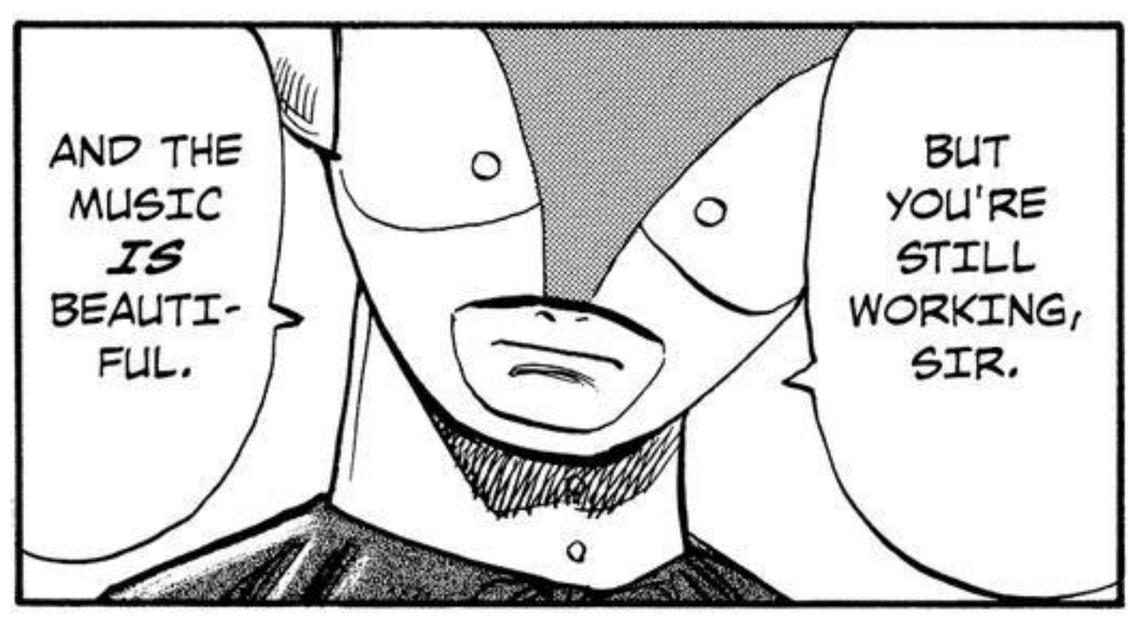
THE GENIUS IN ME STILL LIVES!

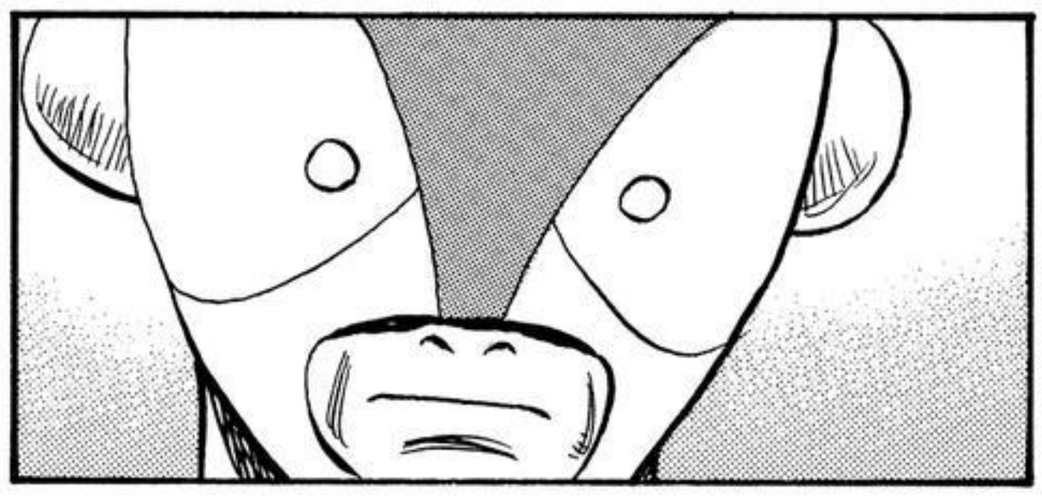
IF I FELT LIKE IT, I COULD STILL CREATE AS MANY SCORES AS I WANT...

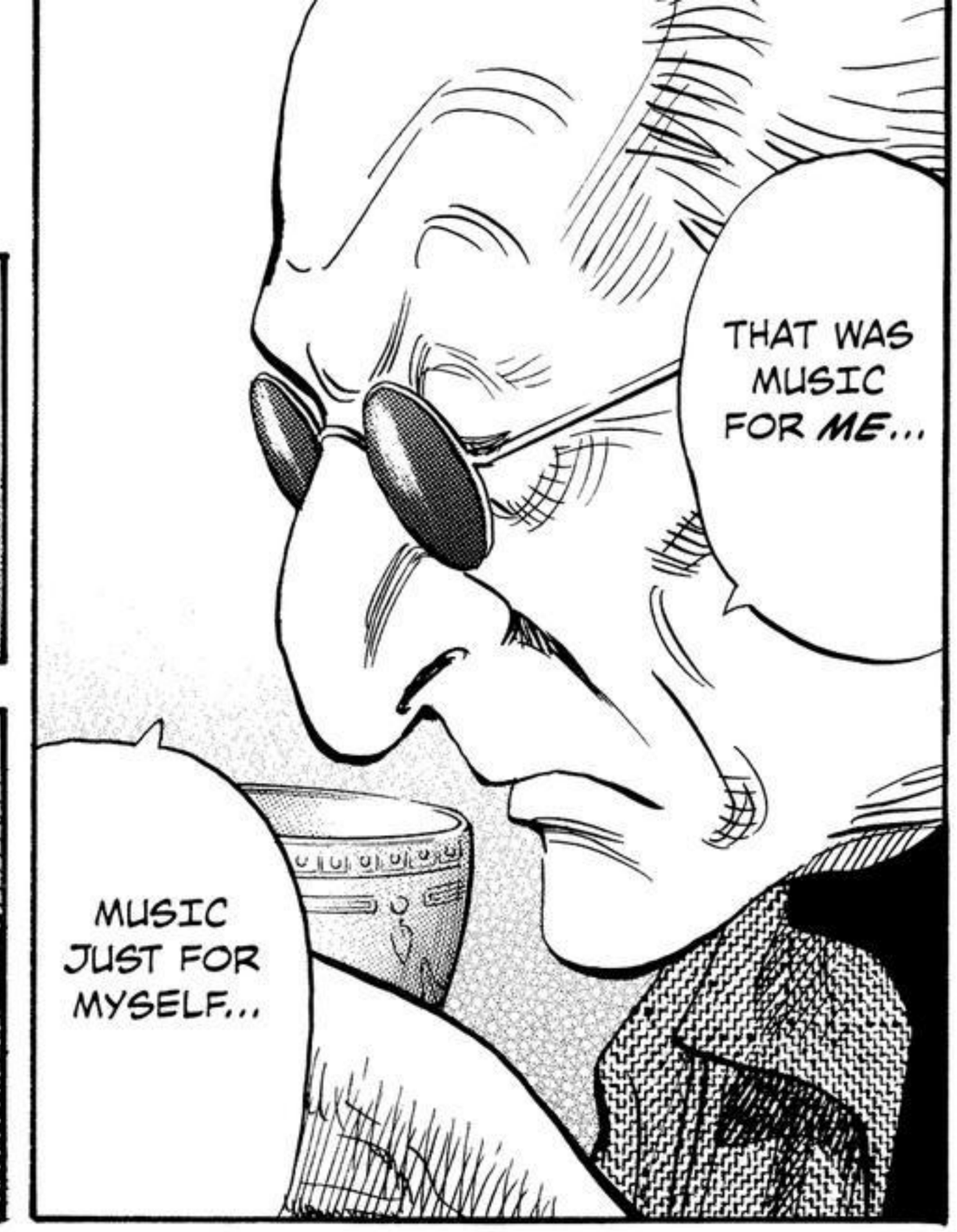




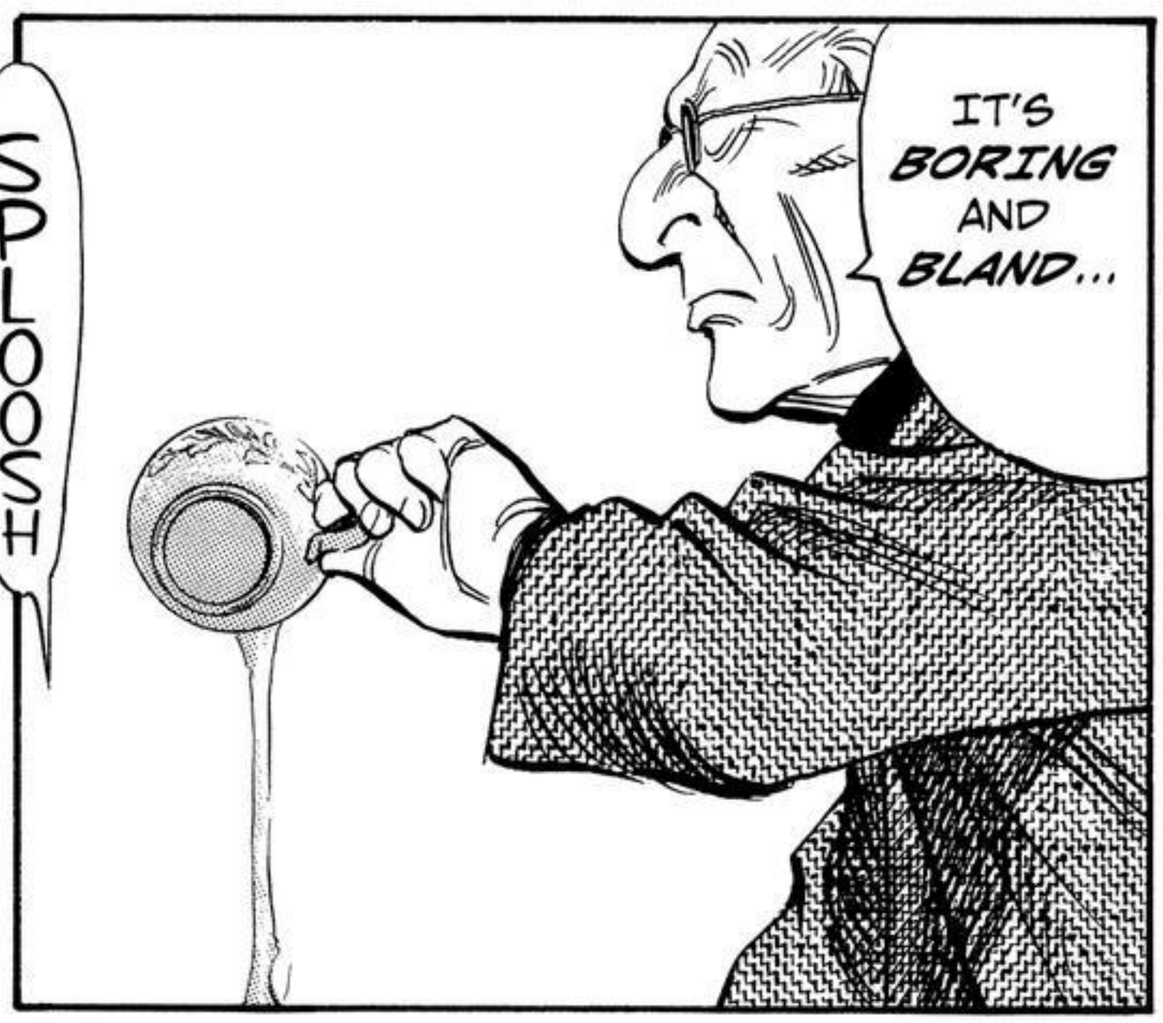


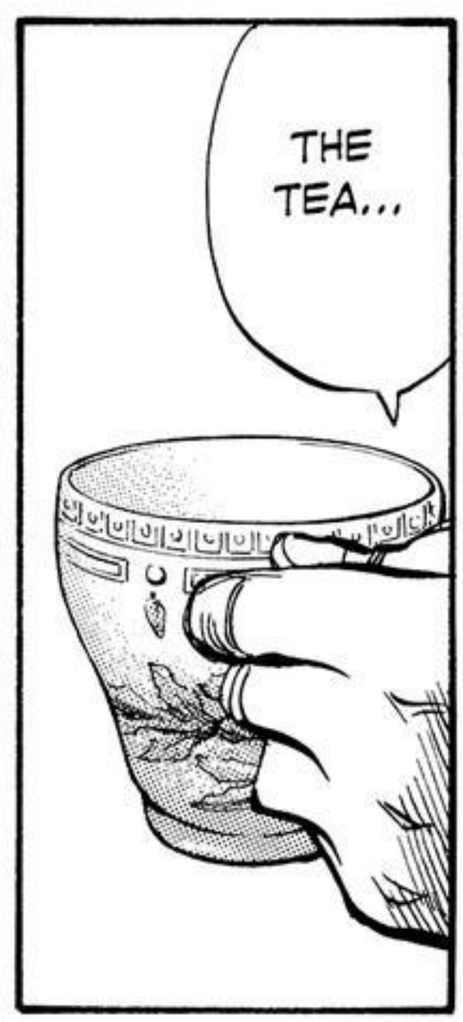




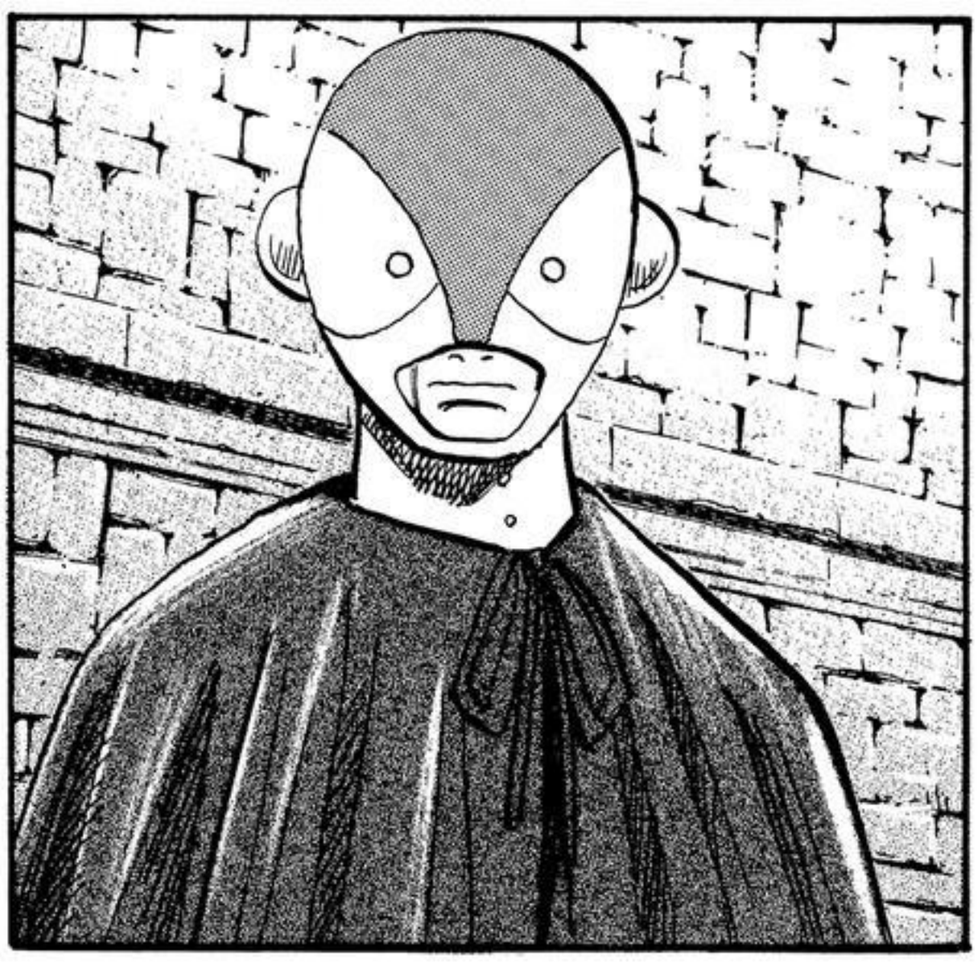

THAT WAS MUSIC FOR *ME*...
MUSIC JUST FOR MYSELF...

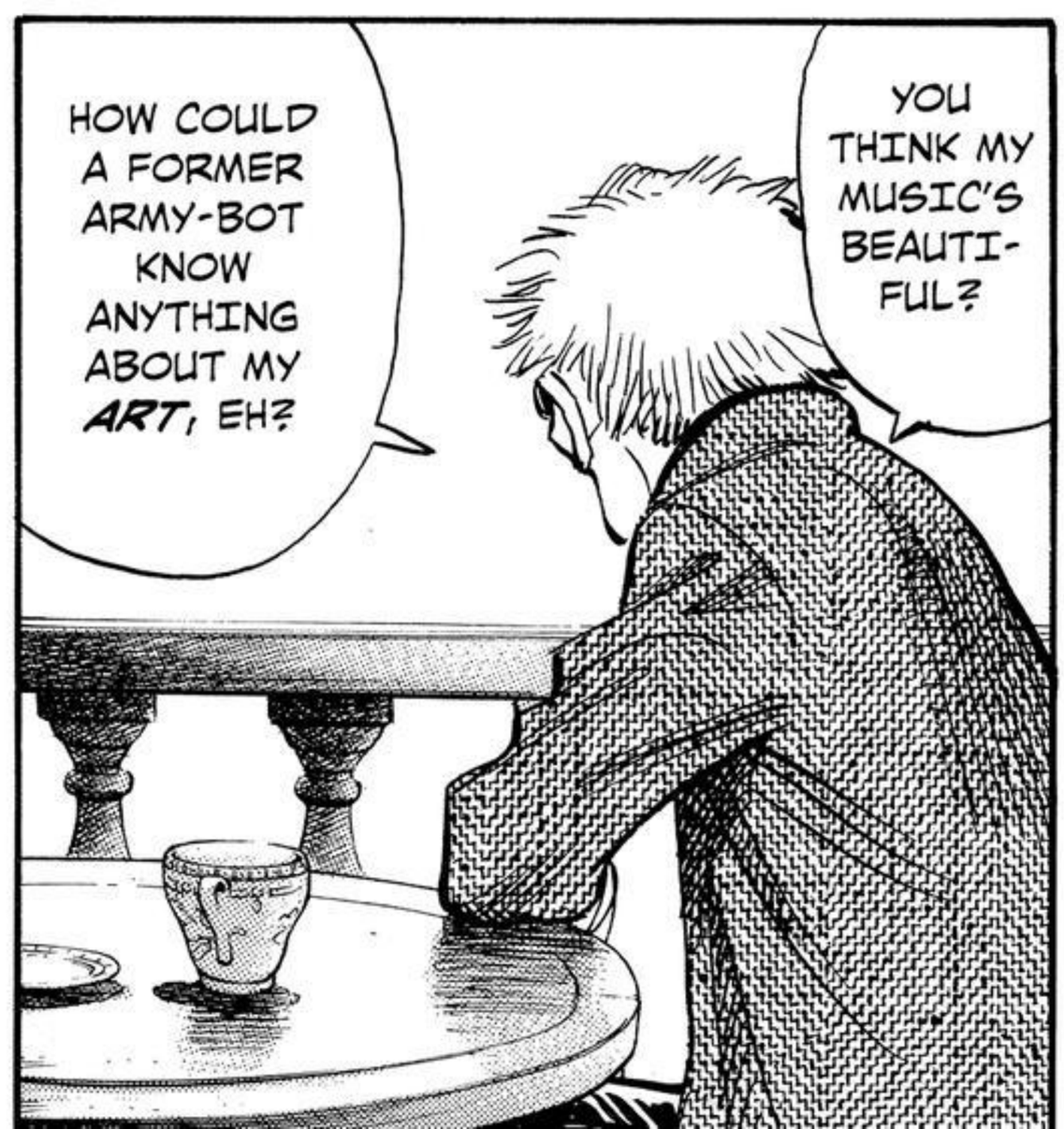
THIS IS JUST LIKE YOUR NAME...

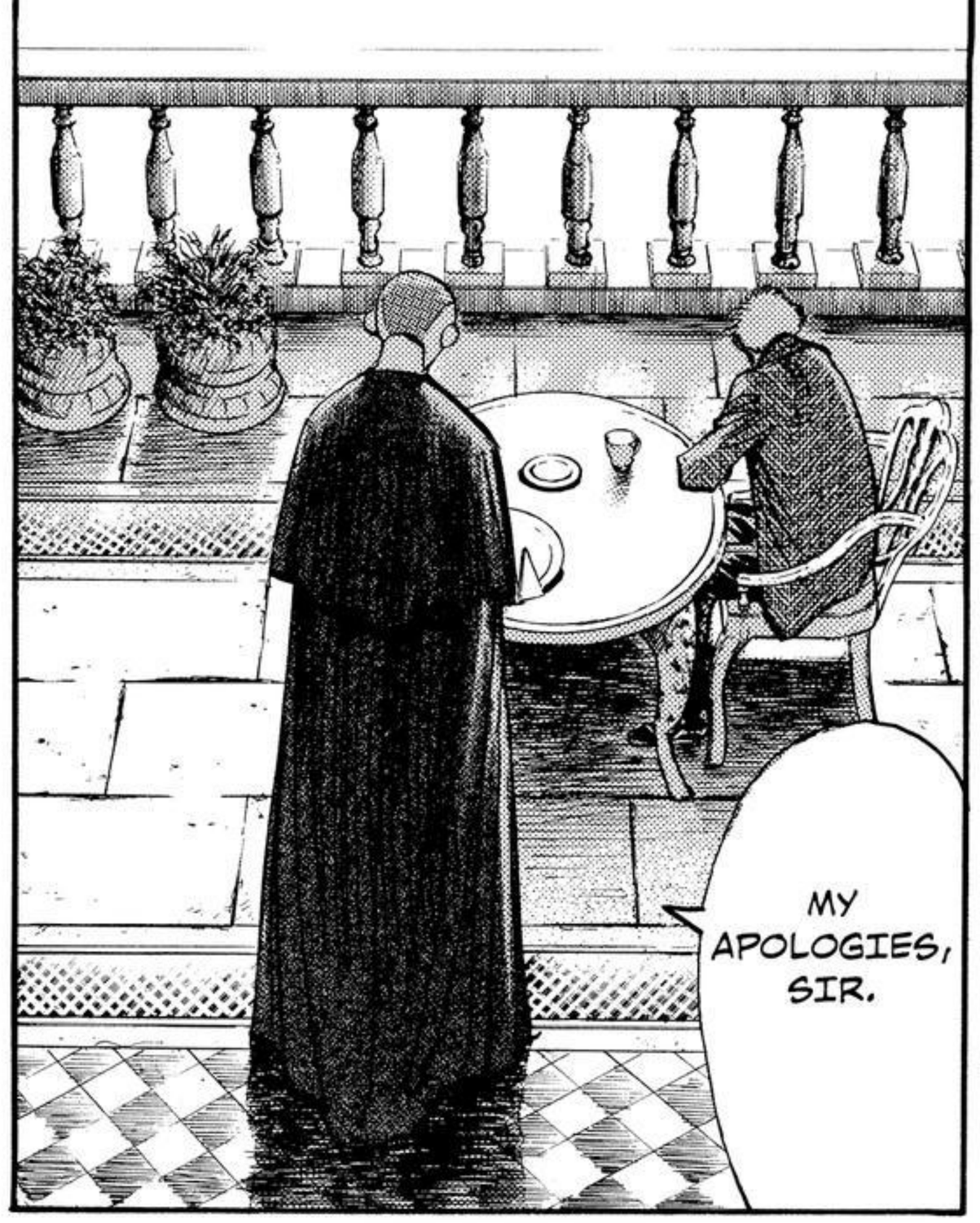

SPLOOSH
IT'S *BORING* AND *BLAND*...

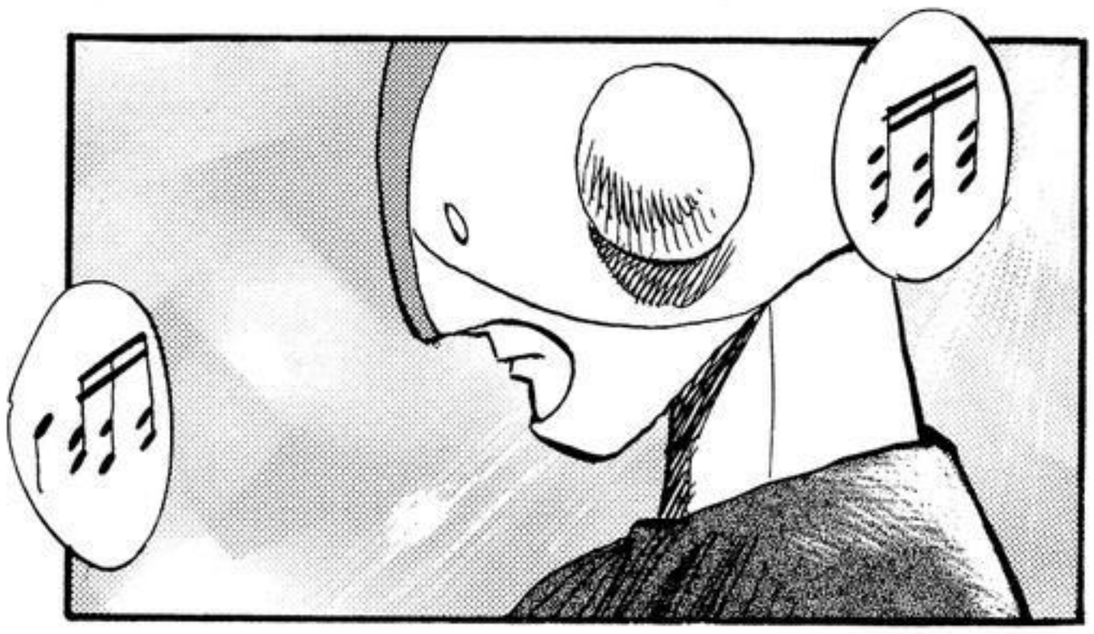

THE TEA...

SIR?

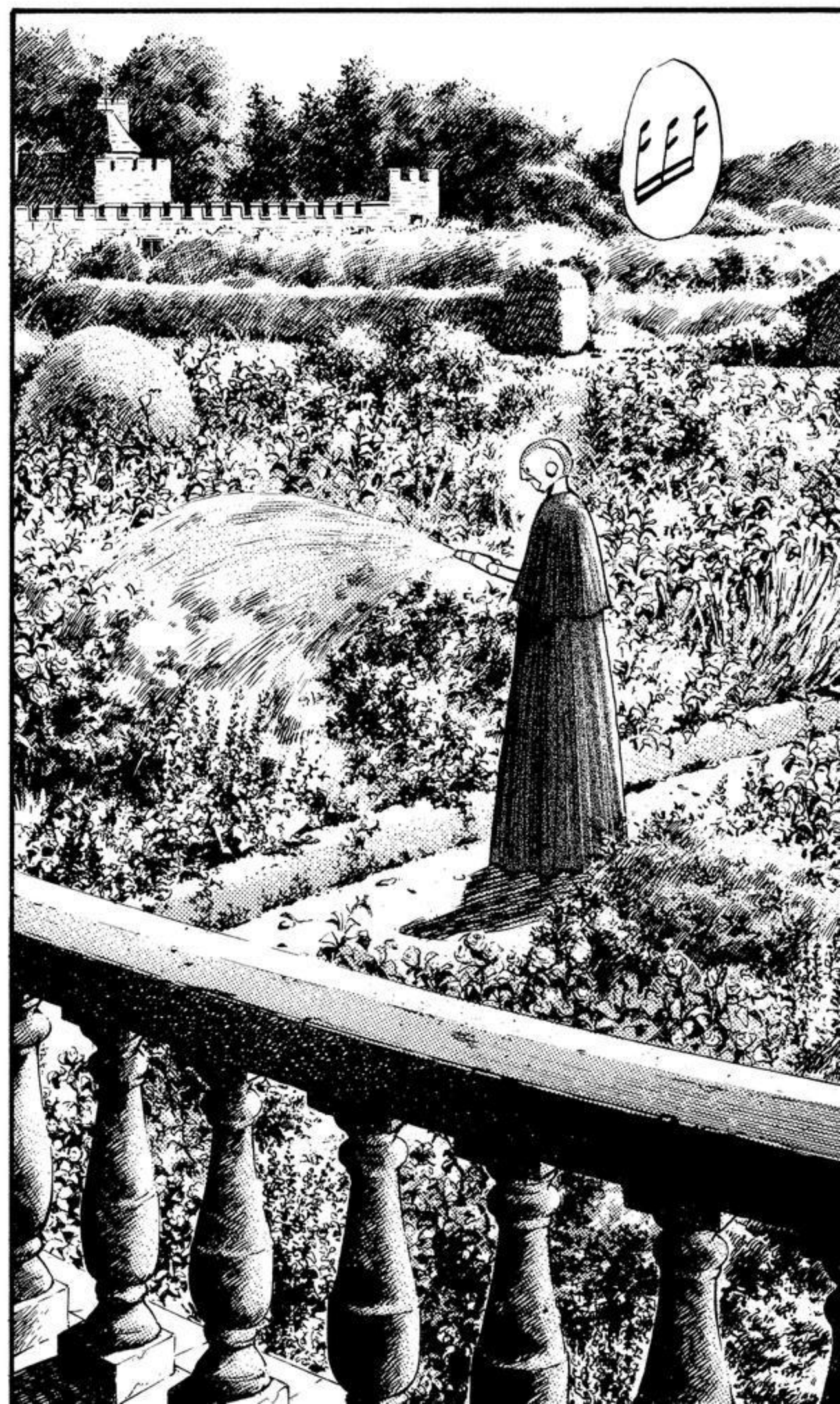


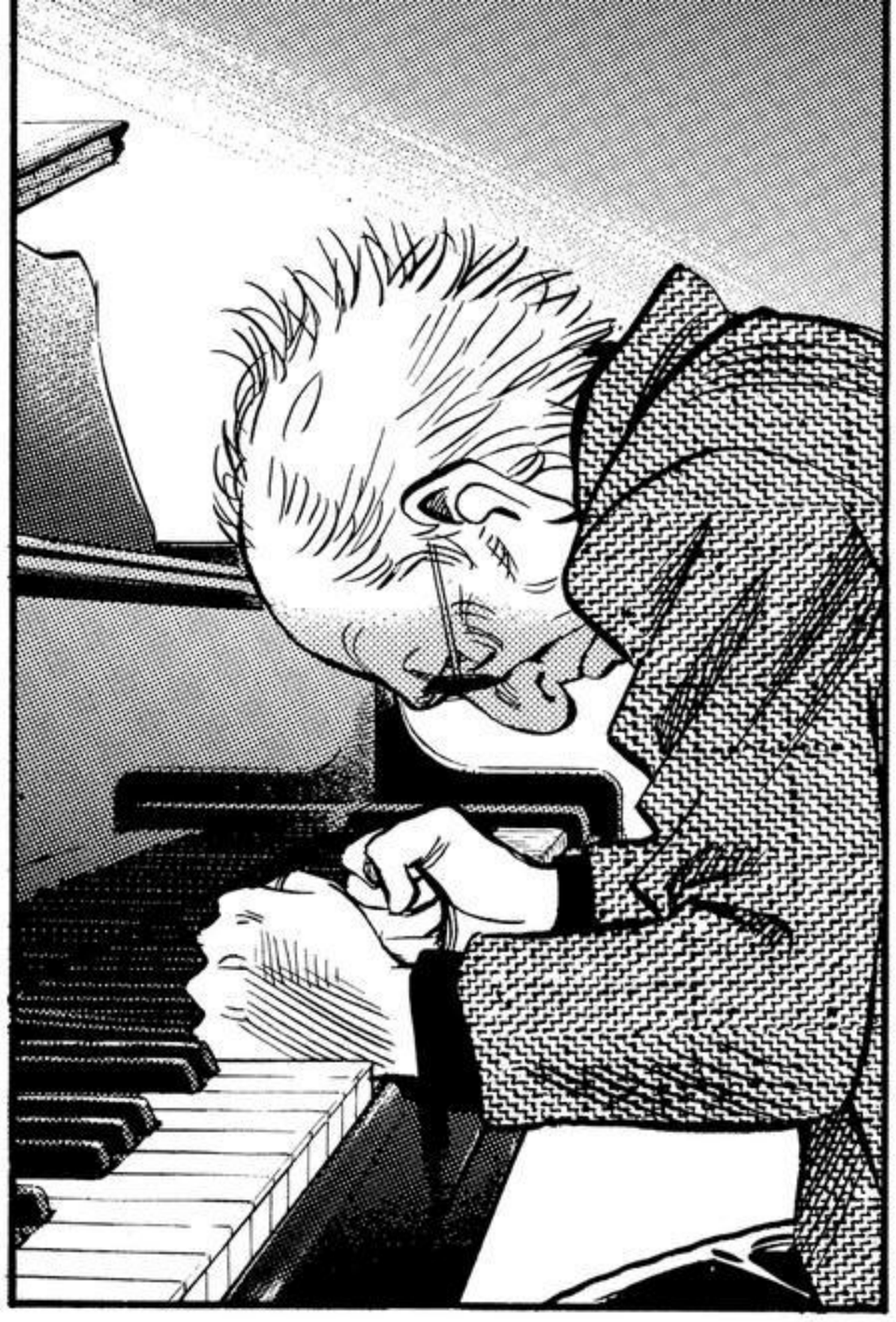

HOW COULD A FORMER ARMY-BOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY *ART*, EH?
YOU THINK MY MUSIC'S BEAUTI-FUL?

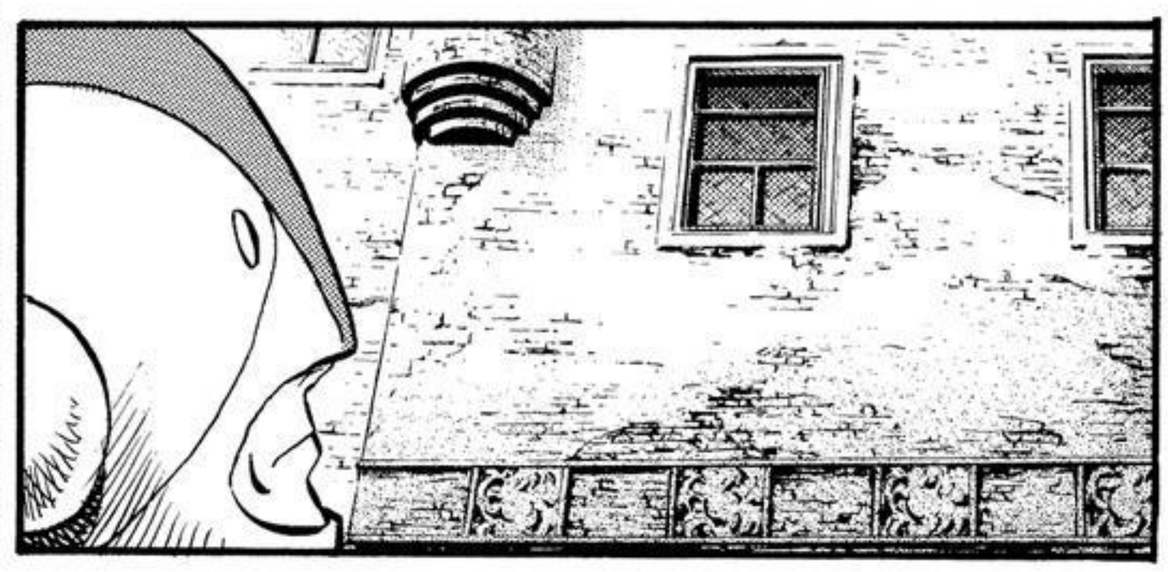

MY APOLOGIES, SIR.



BAMMM

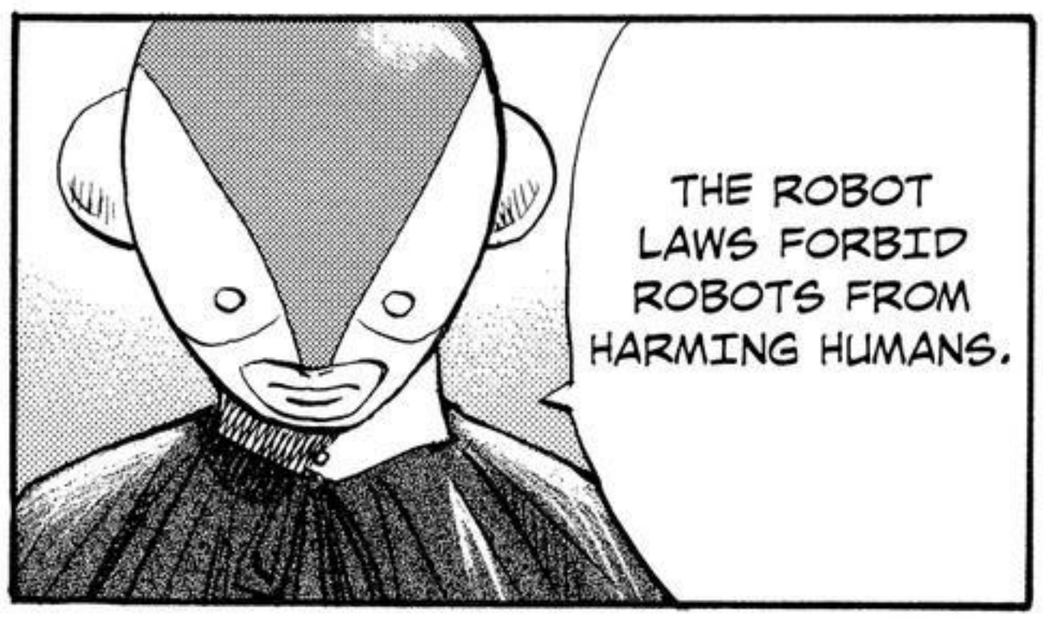




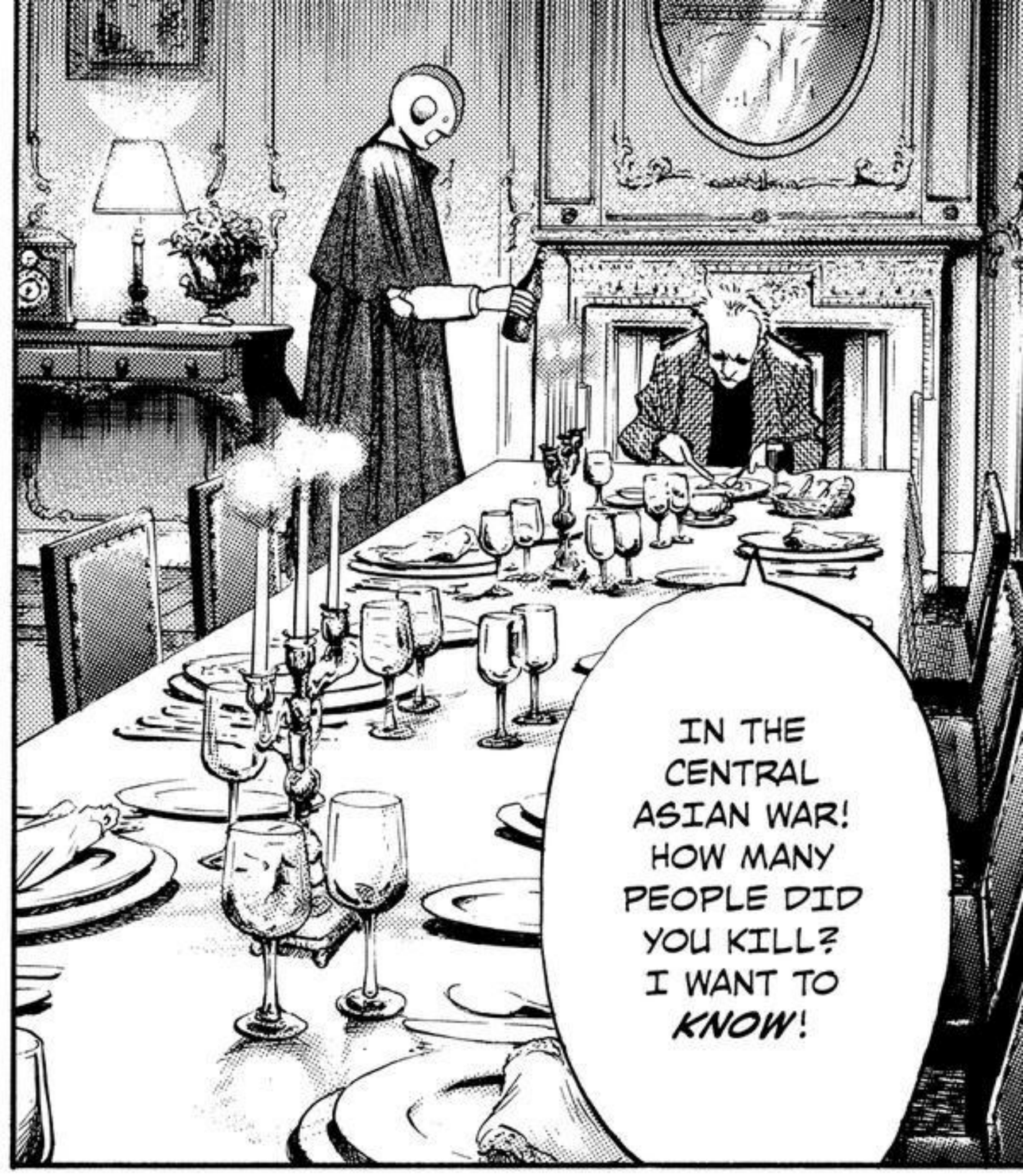


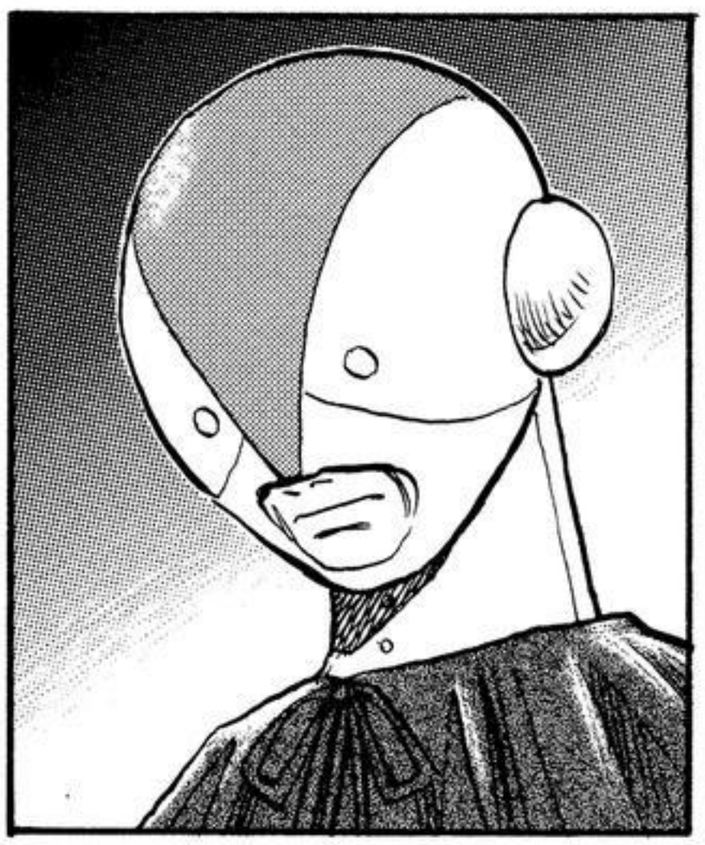
SIR?

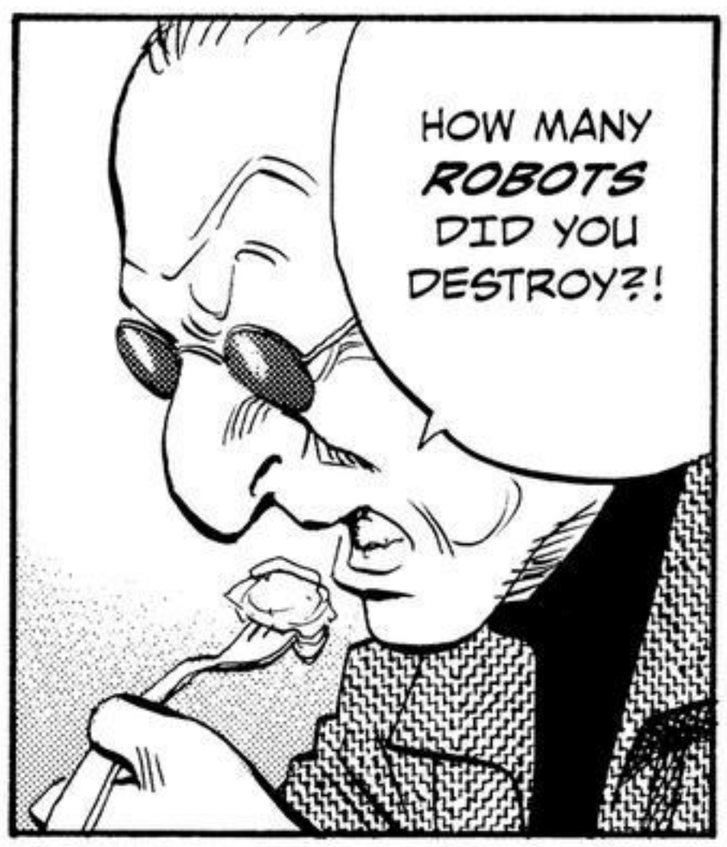
HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU KILL, NORTH...?

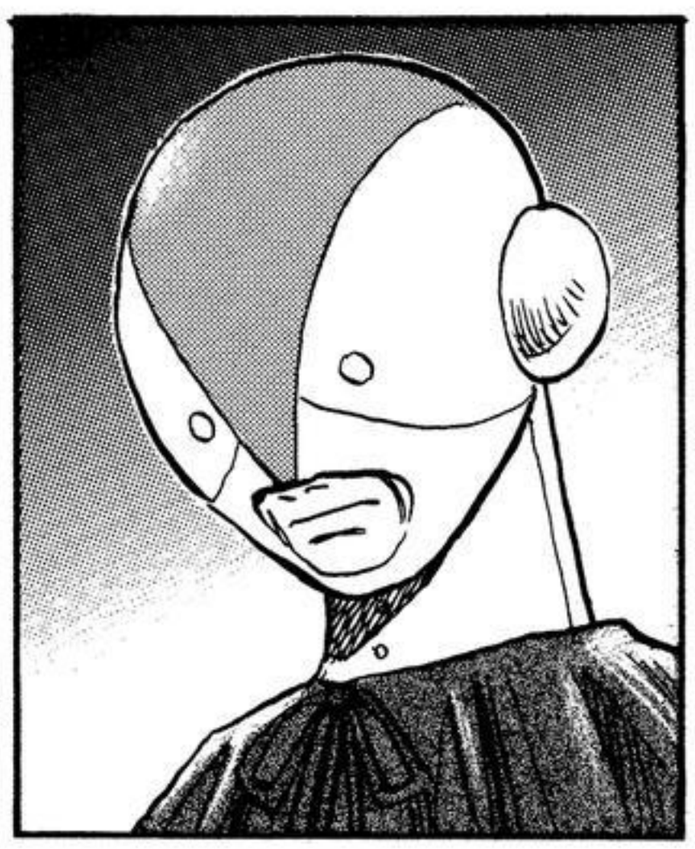

THE ROBOT LAWS FORBID ROBOTS FROM HARMING HUMANS.

SO YOU DID IN YOUR OWN KIND?


IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN WAR! HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU KILL? I WANT TO *KNOW*!

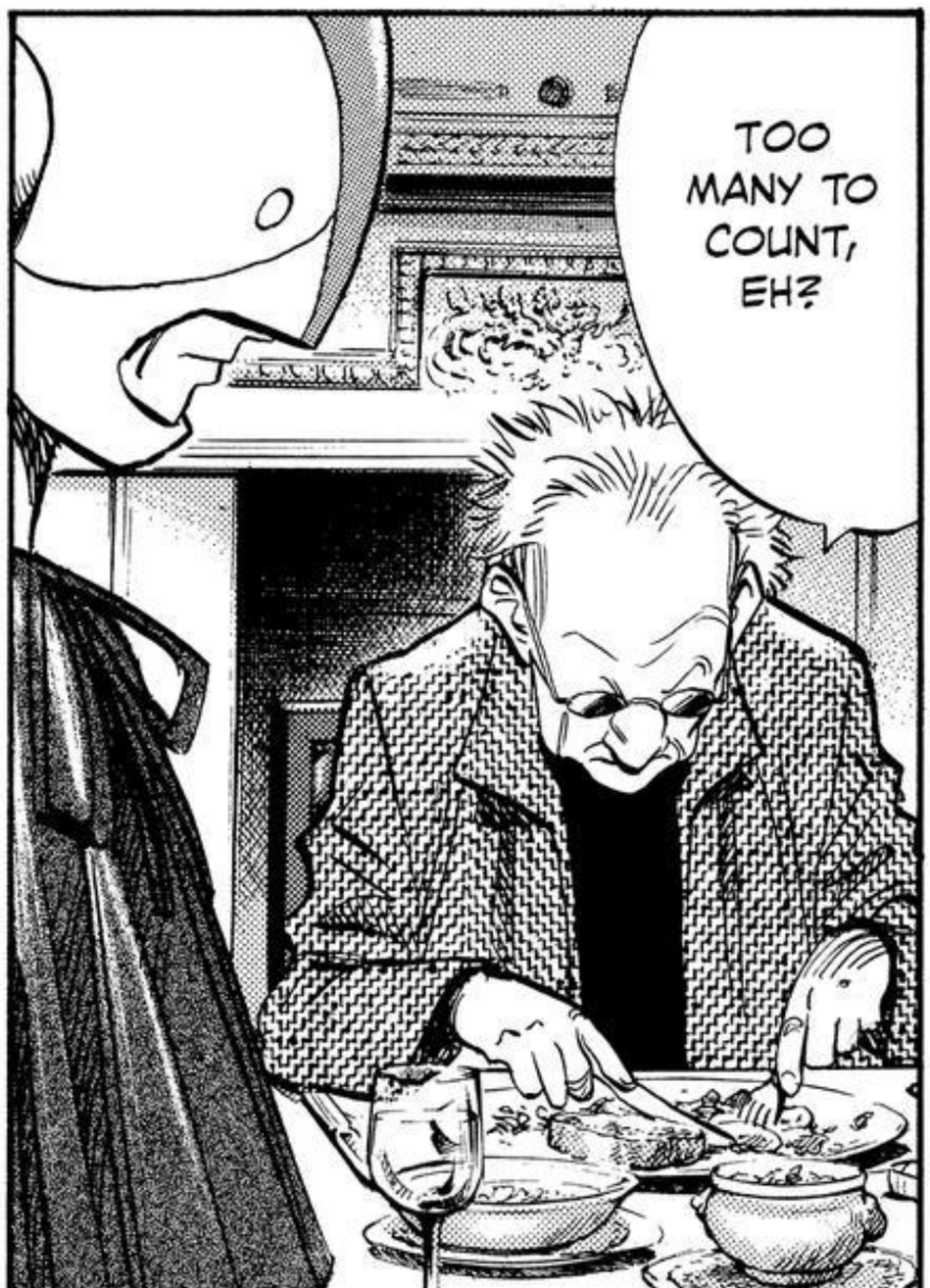



HOW MANY *ROBOTS* DID YOU DESTROY?!

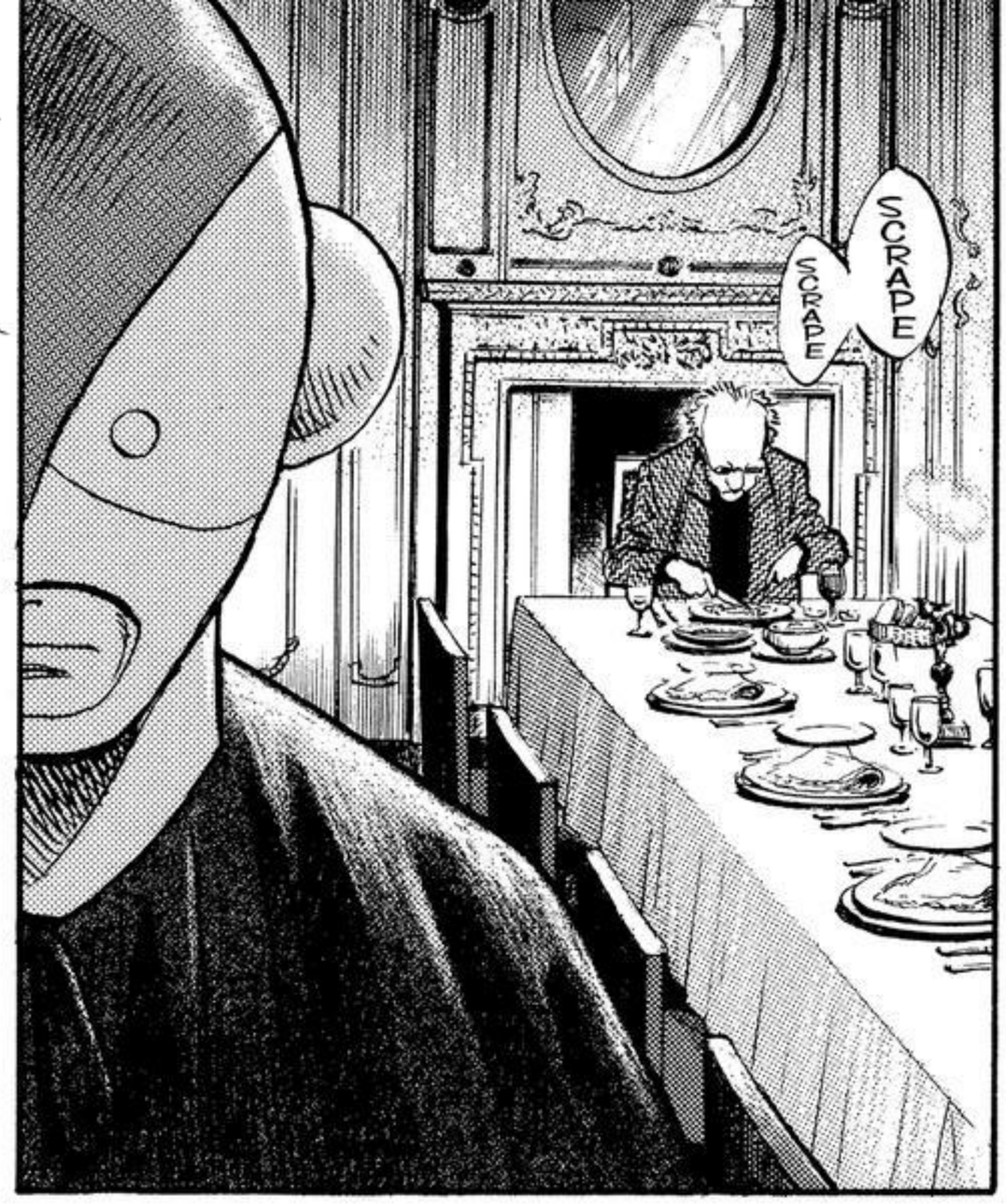


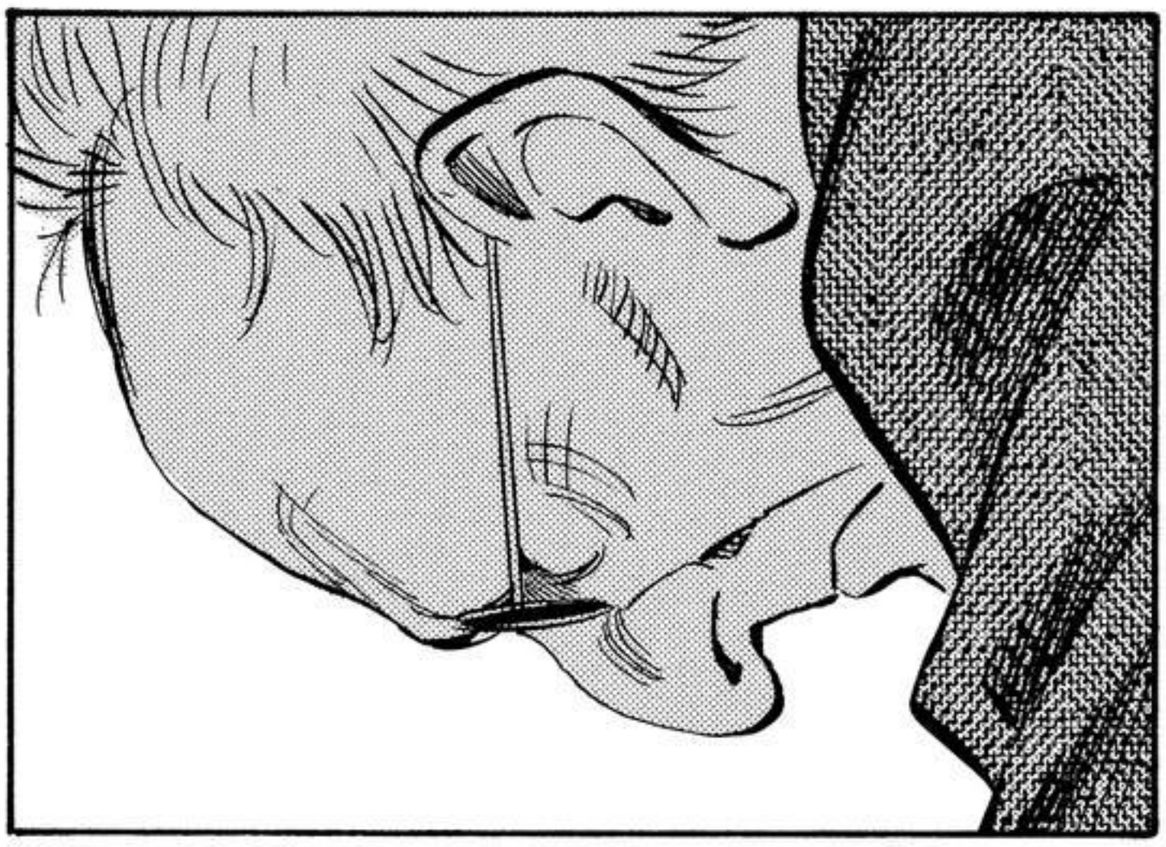
GET OUT OF HERE...
THIS TASTELESS FOOD'S STARTING TO TASTE EVEN WORSE...

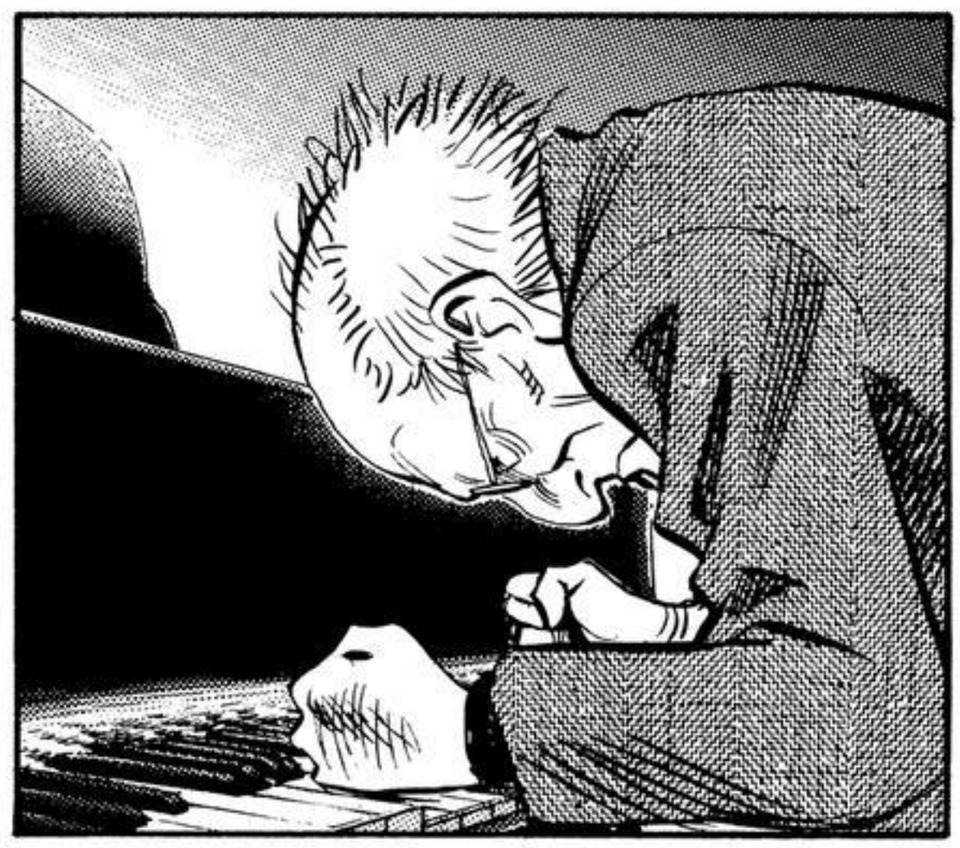
YES, SIR.

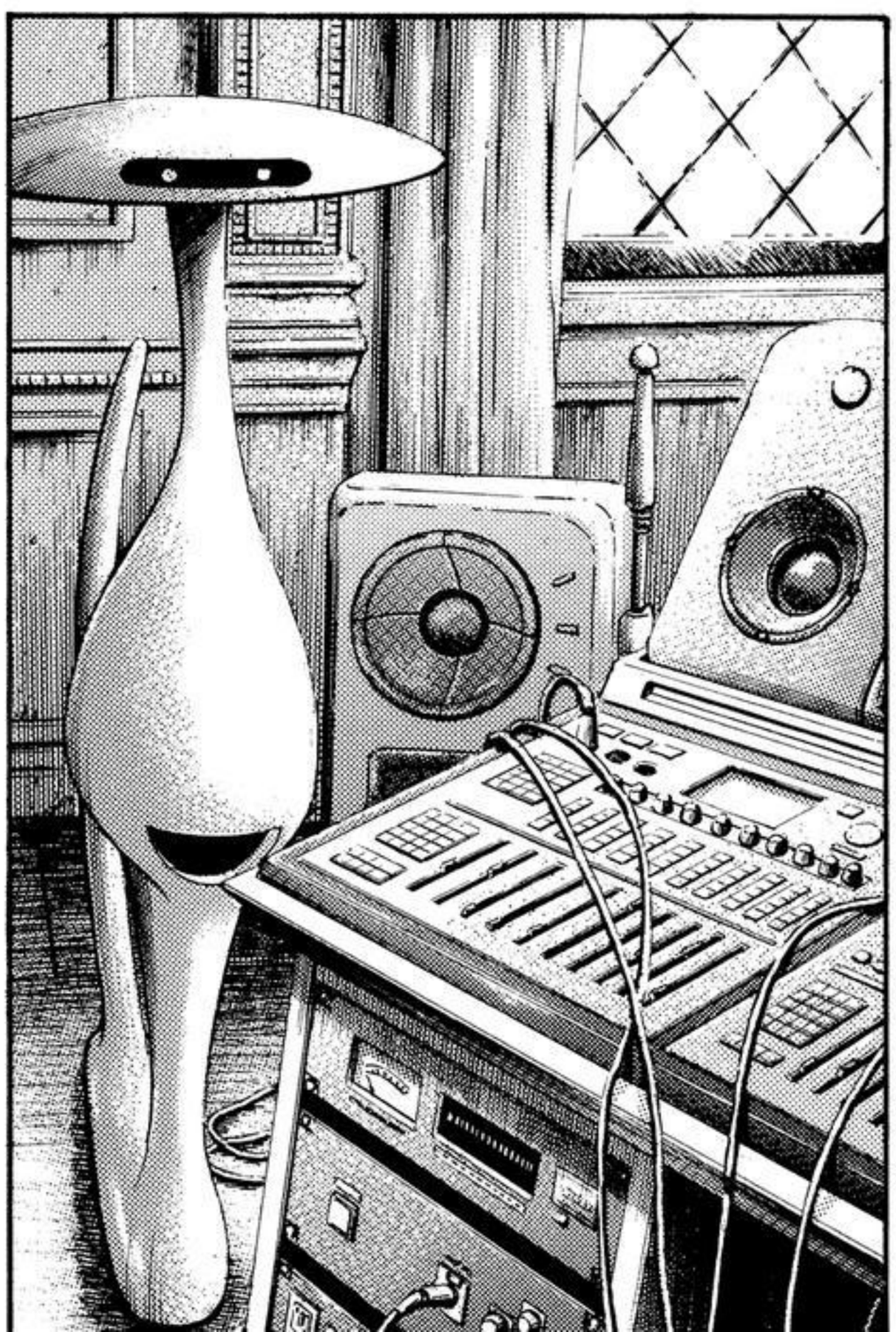

TOO MANY TO COUNT, EH?

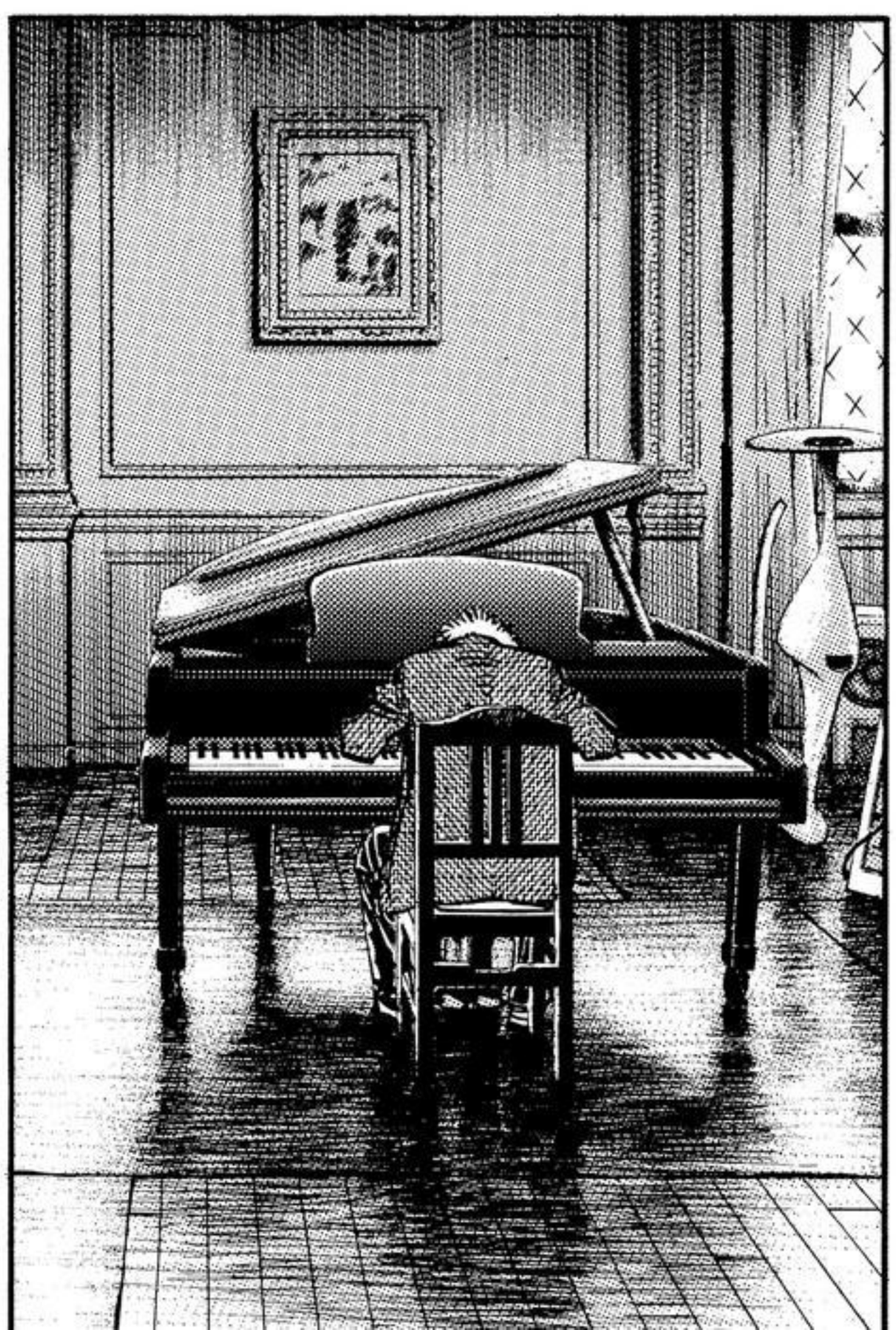
BAMM

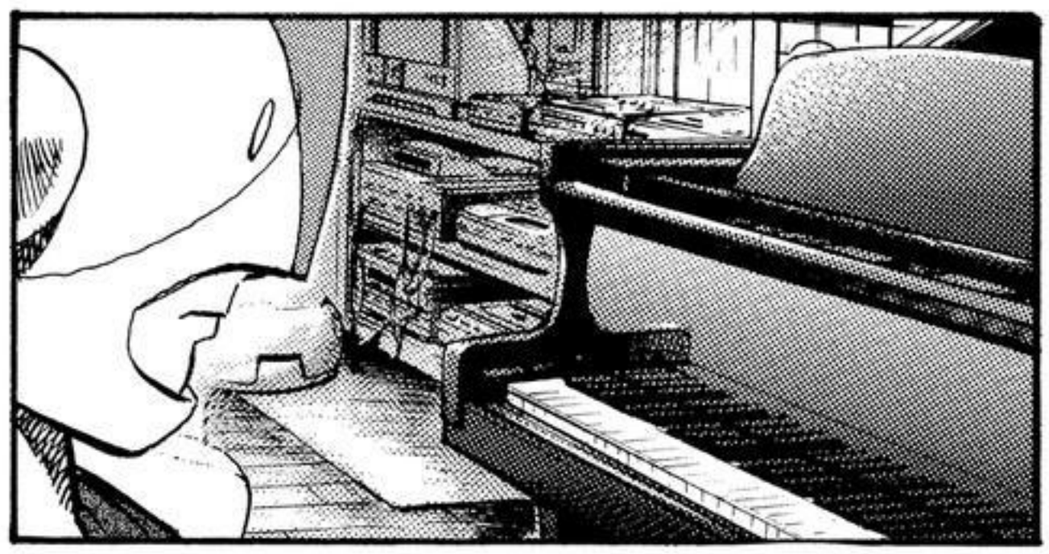

SCRAPE
SCRAPE

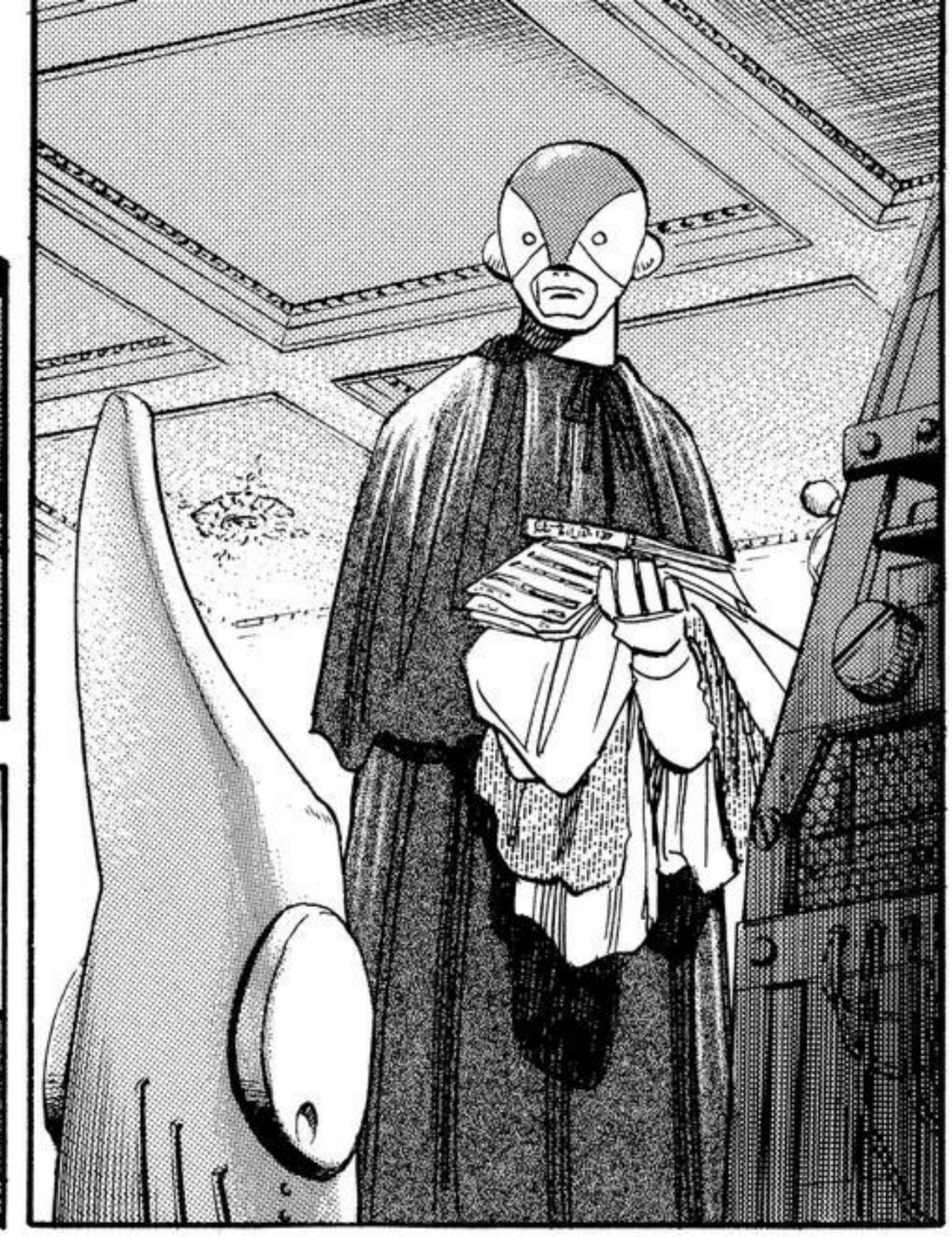




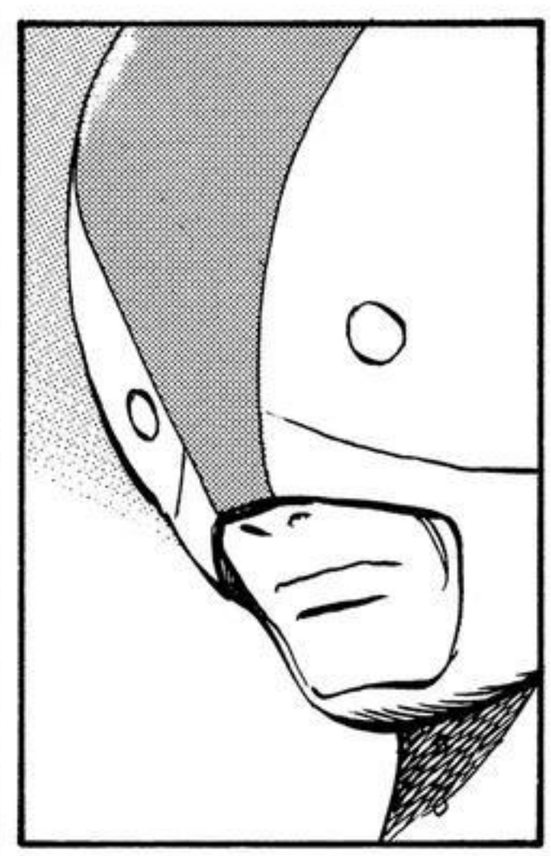








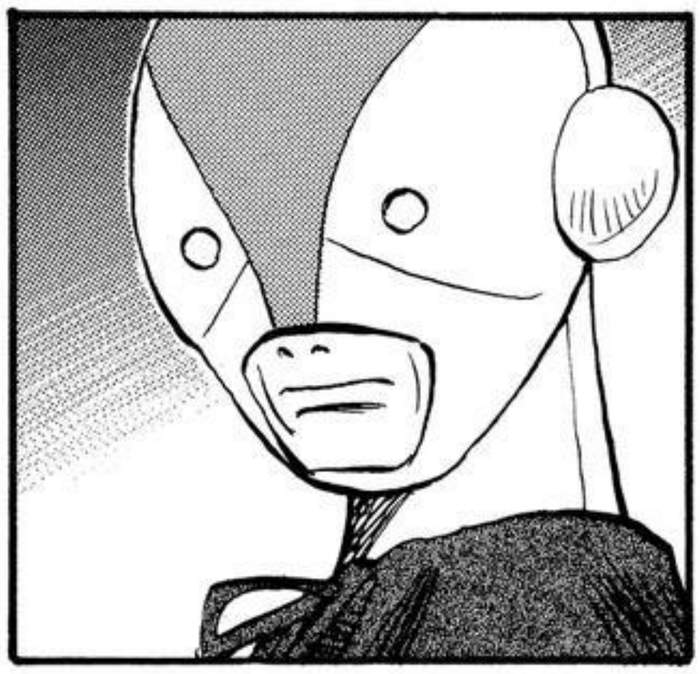
PLINK

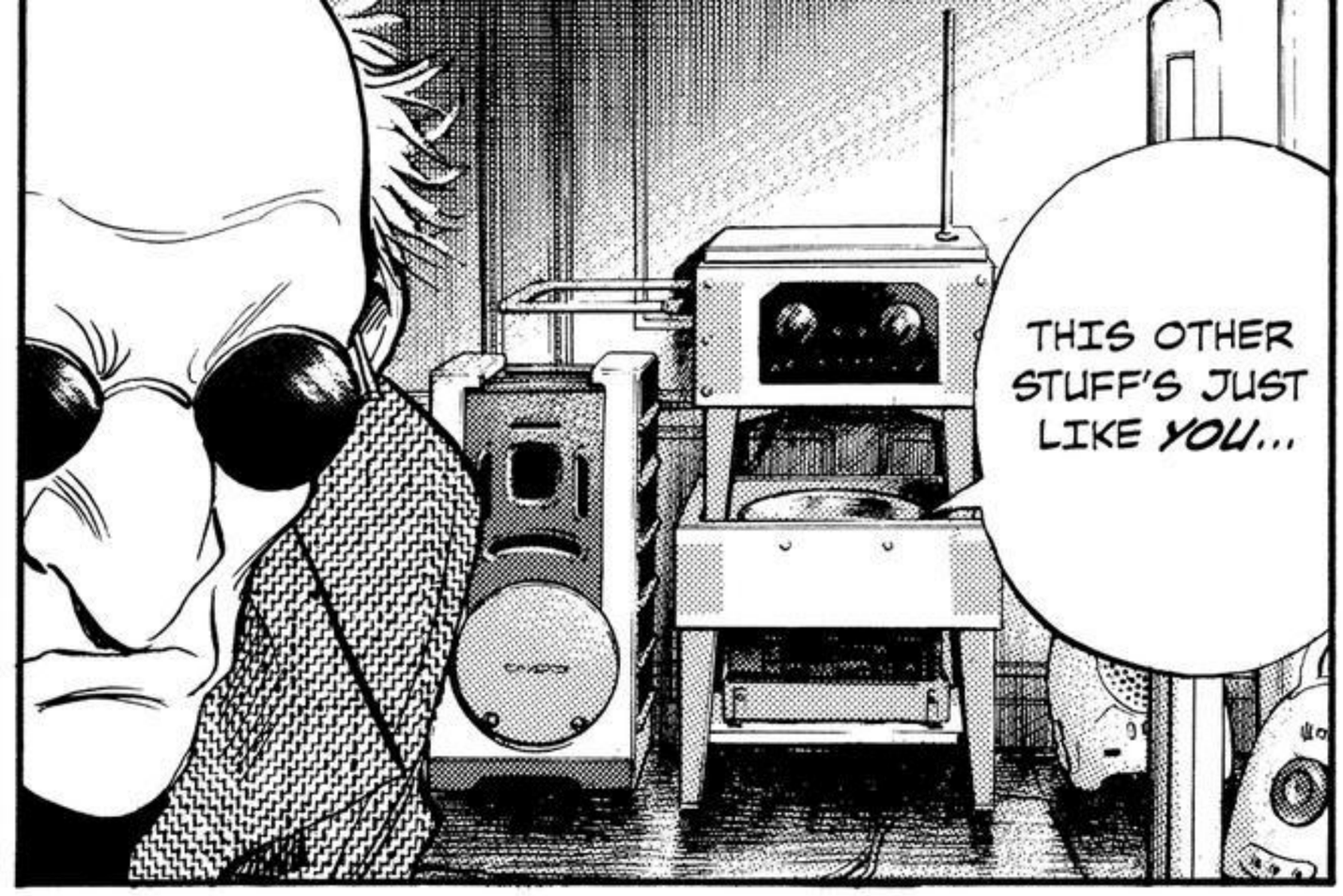


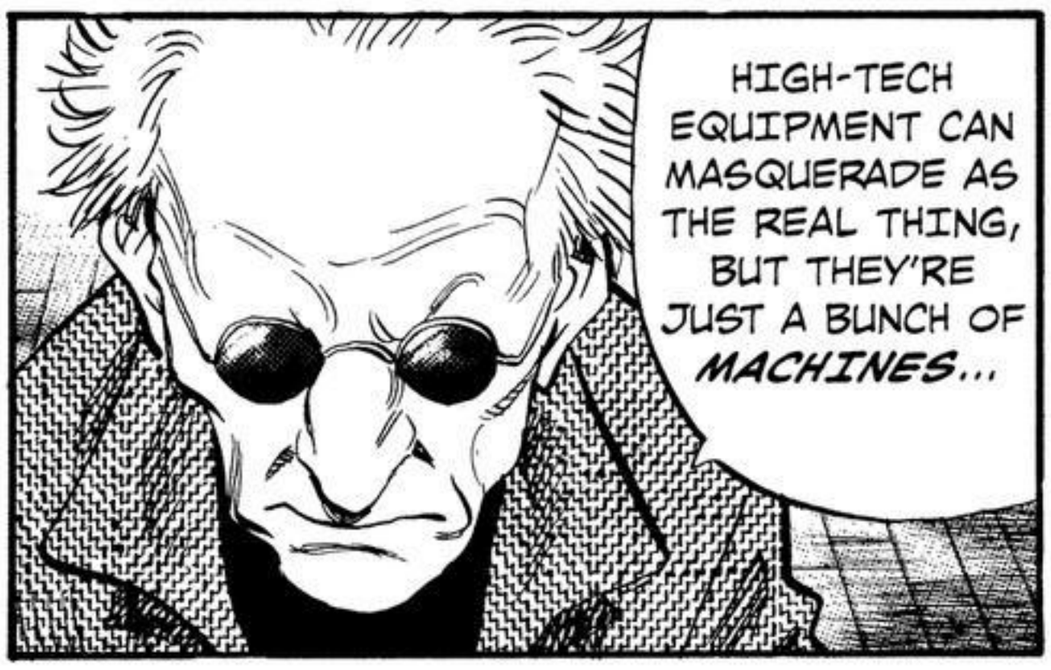
YOU HAVE ALL THE LATEST EQUIPMENT... BUT YOU ONLY COMPOSE ON AN OLD PIANO...

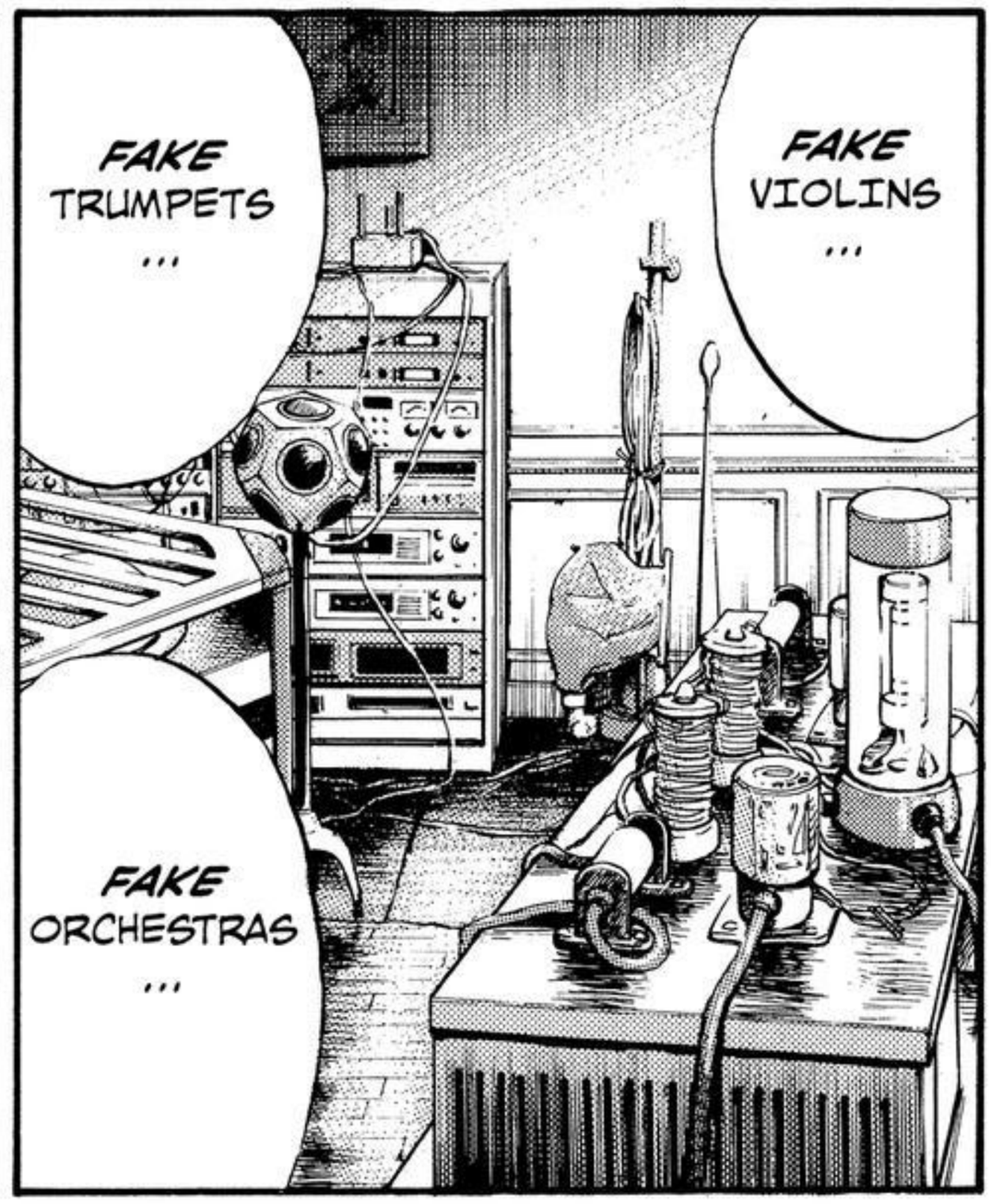
EXCUSE ME, SIR.

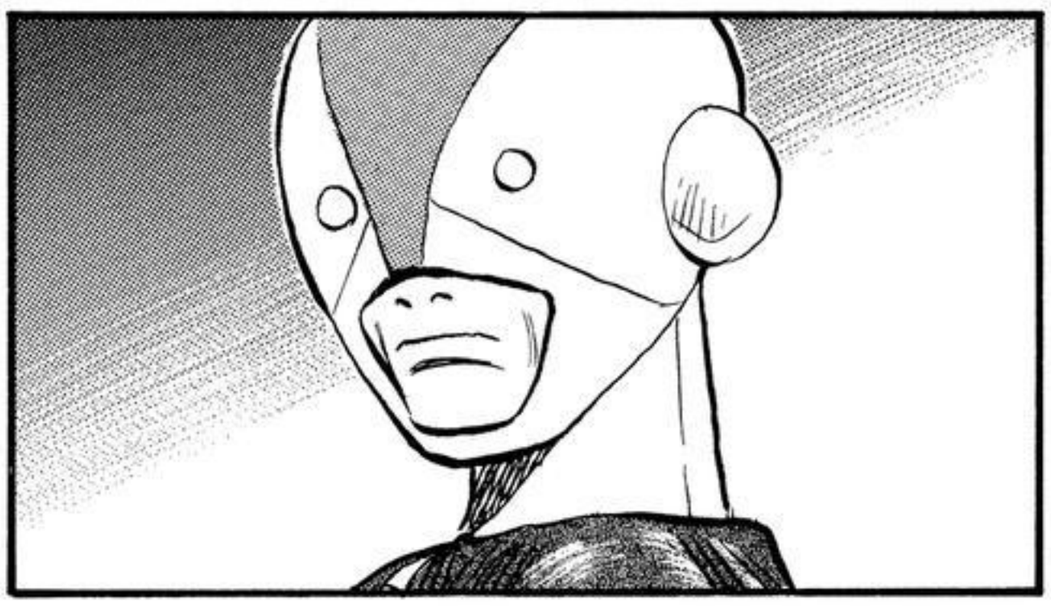
DON'T YOU *DARE* TOUCH MY PIANO!!

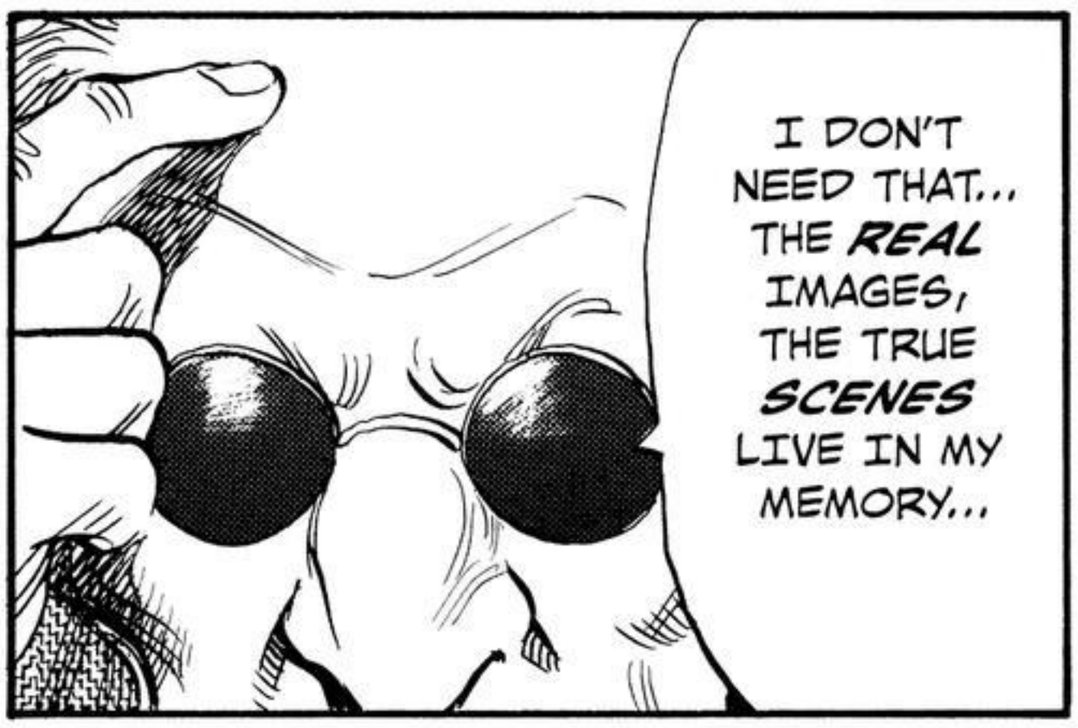


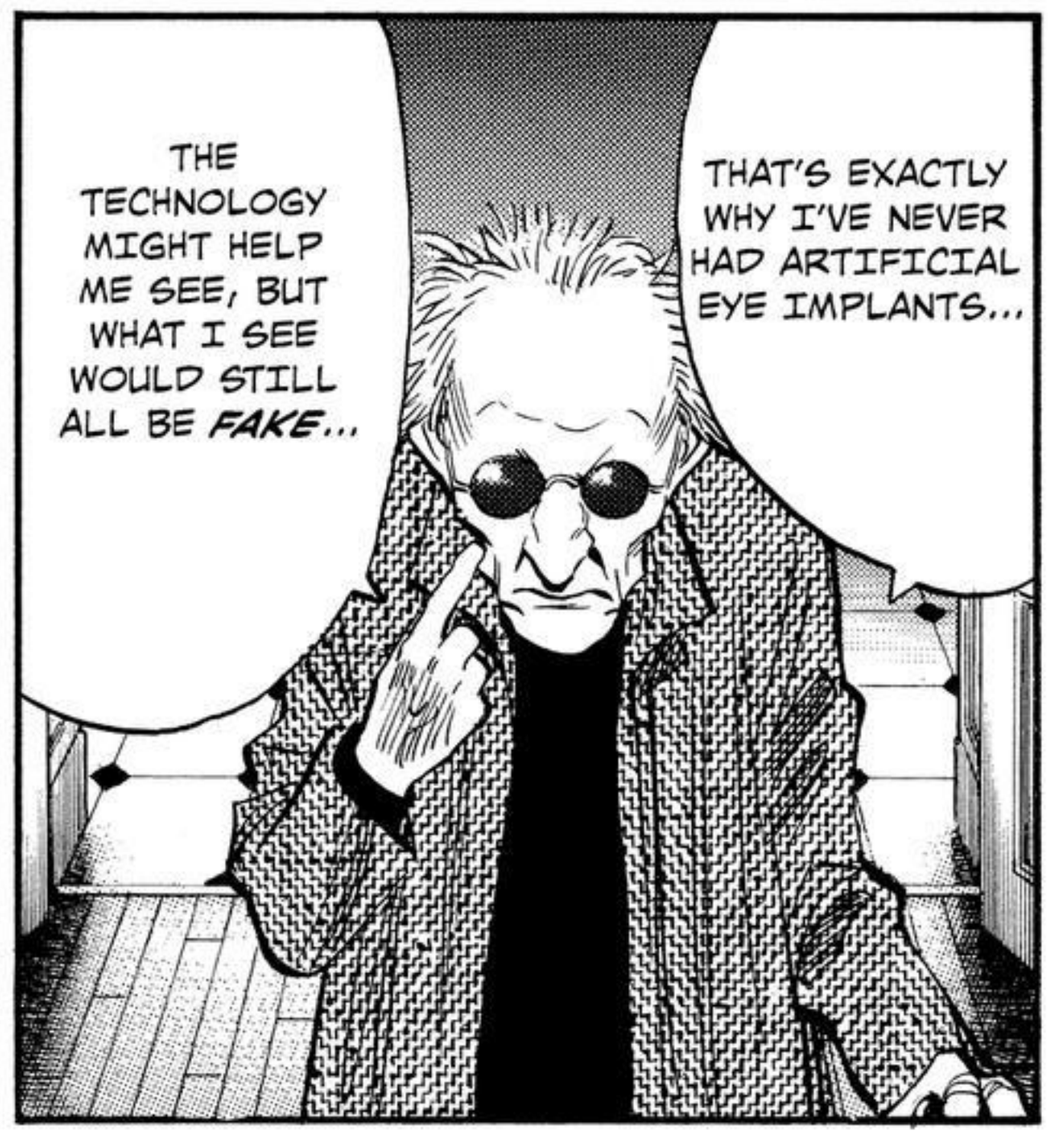

THIS OTHER STUFF'S JUST LIKE *YOU*...


HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT CAN MASQUERADE AS THE REAL THING, BUT THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF *MACHINES*...


FAKE TRUMPETS ...
FAKE VIOLINS ...
FAKE ORCHESTRAS ...



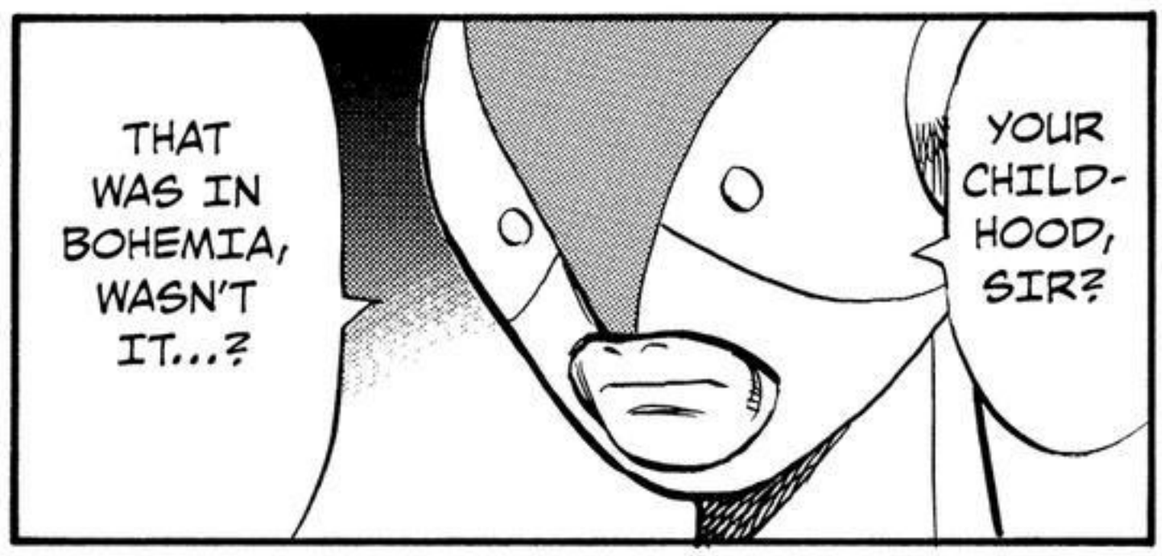

I DON'T NEED THAT... THE *REAL* IMAGES, THE TRUE *SCENES* LIVE IN MY MEMORY...

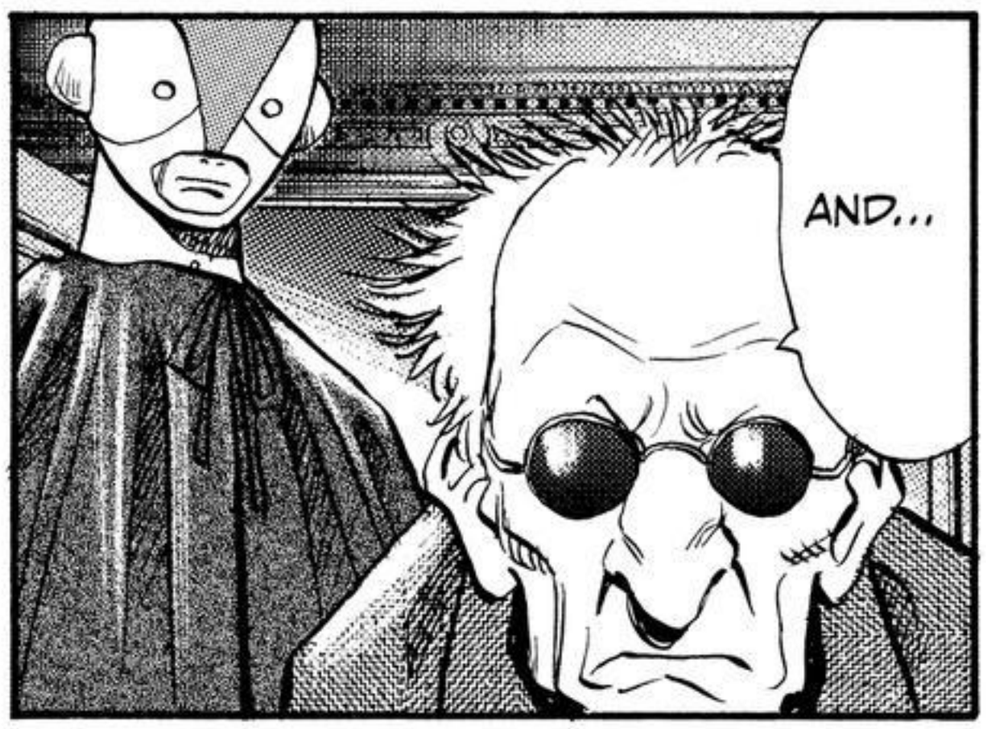

THE TECHNOLOGY MIGHT HELP ME SEE, BUT WHAT I SEE WOULD STILL ALL BE *FAKE*...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'VE NEVER HAD ARTIFICIAL EYE IMPLANTS...

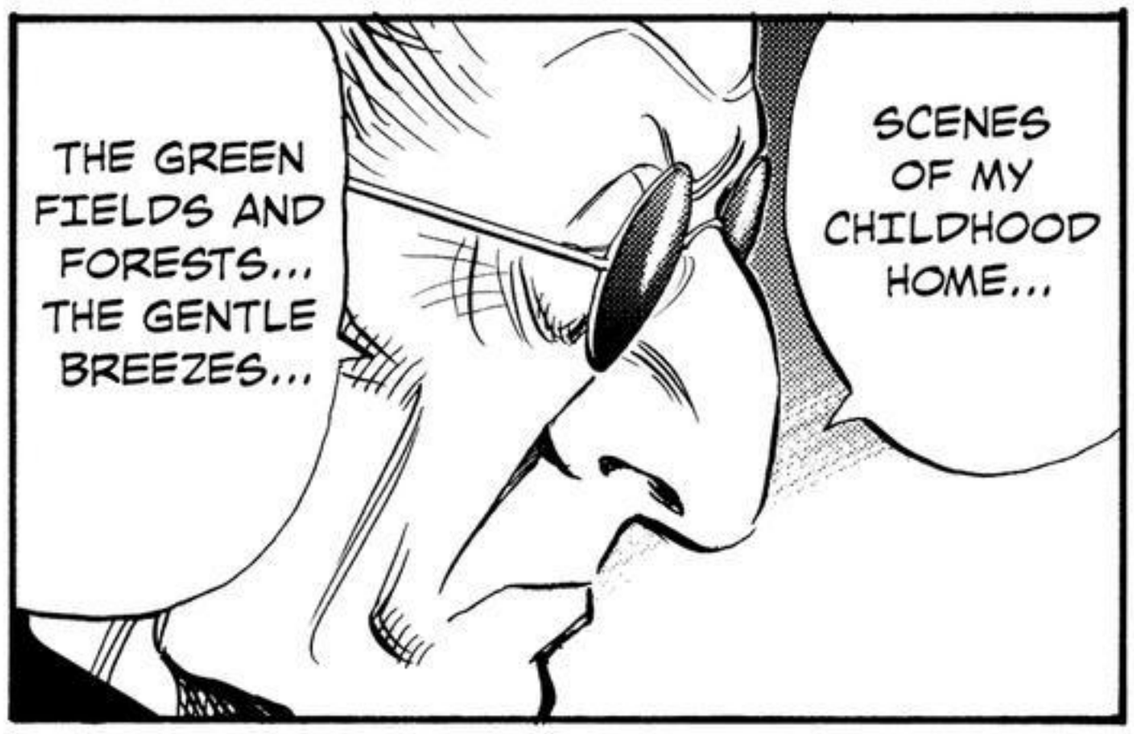
THE TRUE SCENES...

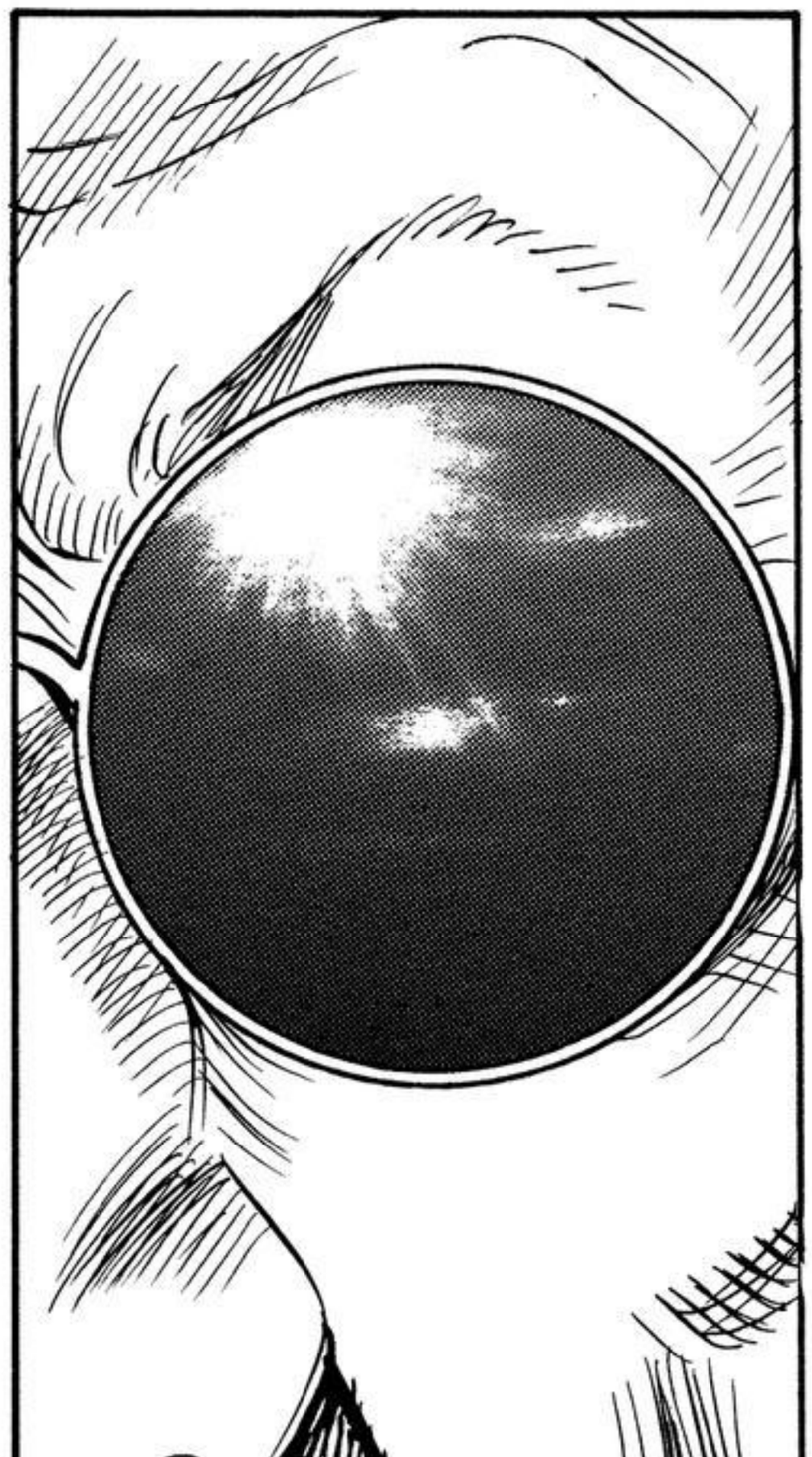
HMPH... SO THAT'S IN YOUR DATA TOO, EH?...

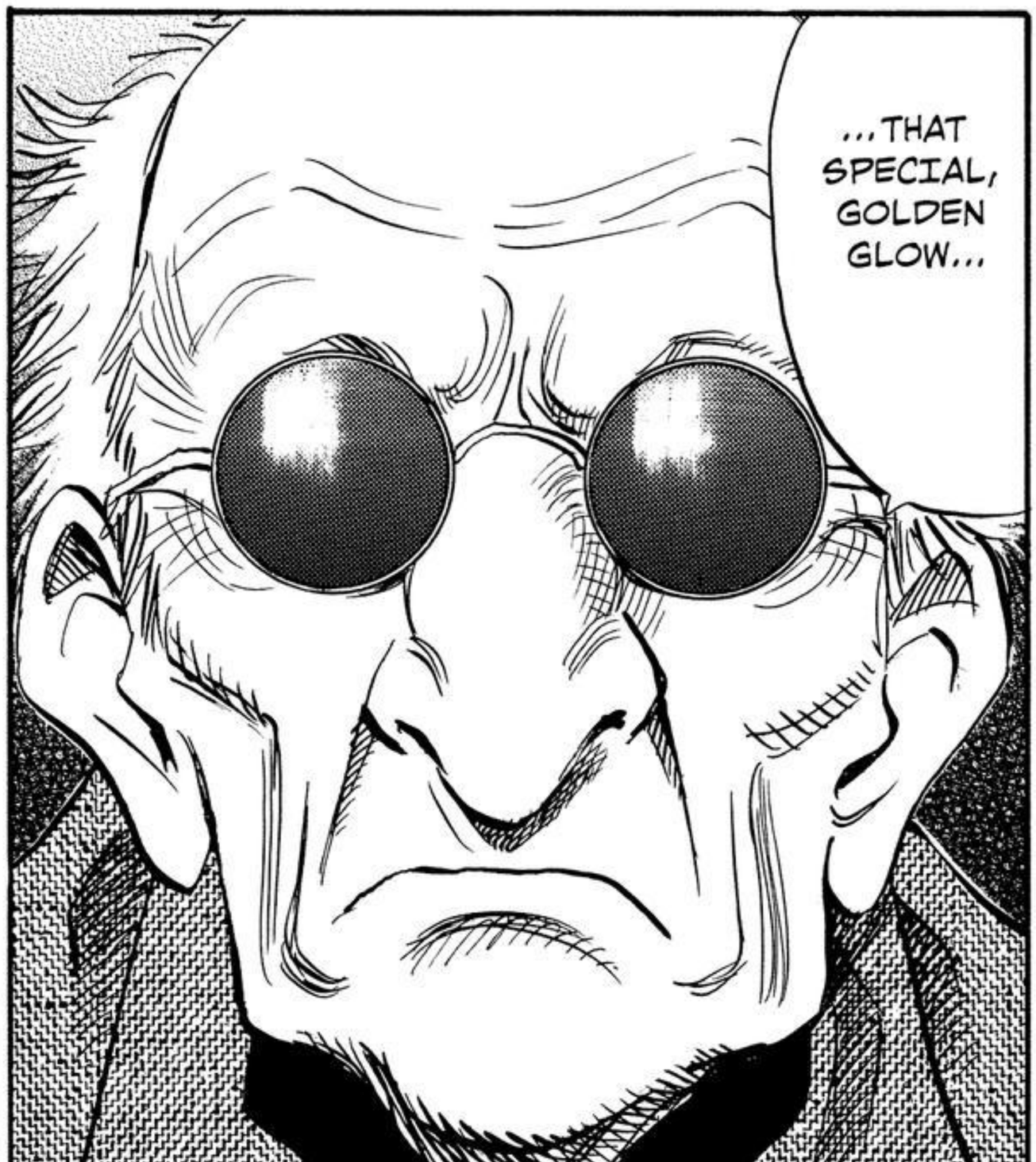
WELL, DATA IS ALL YOU HAVE, AND IT'S ***WORTHLESS.*** YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT.





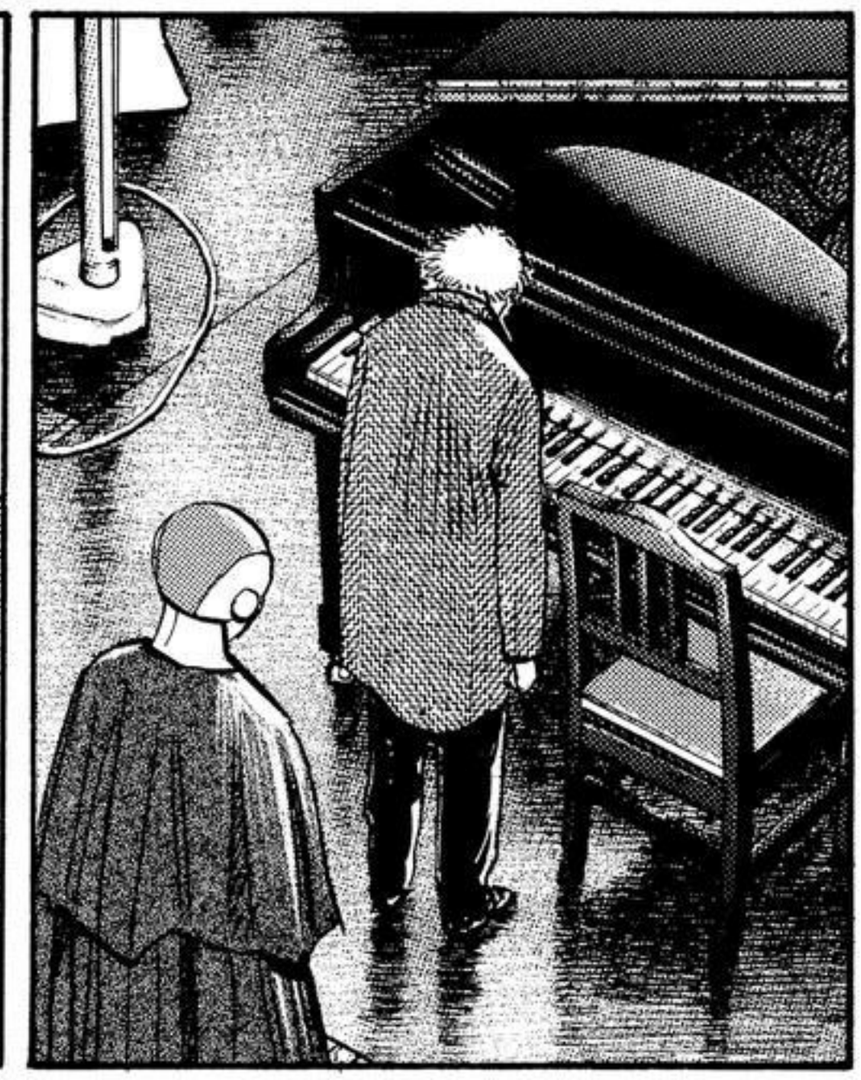




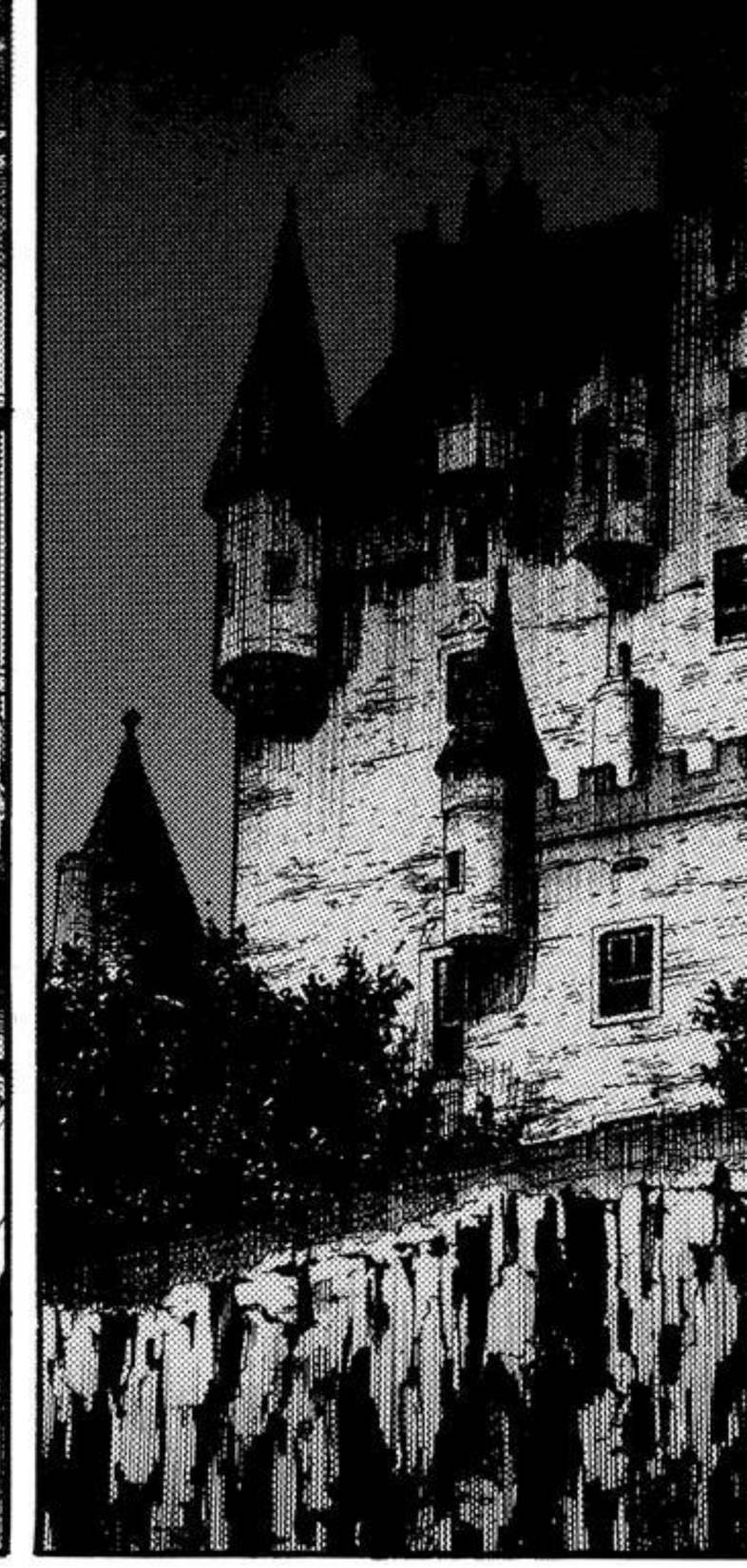


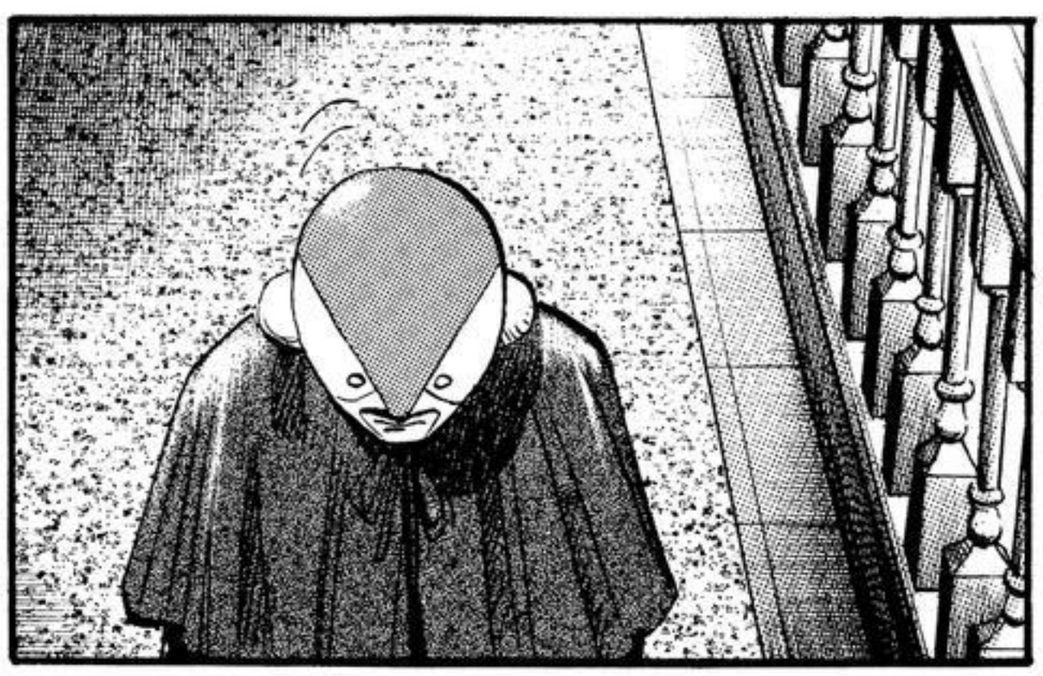
NOW GET OUT OF HERE. I HAVE WORK TO DO!

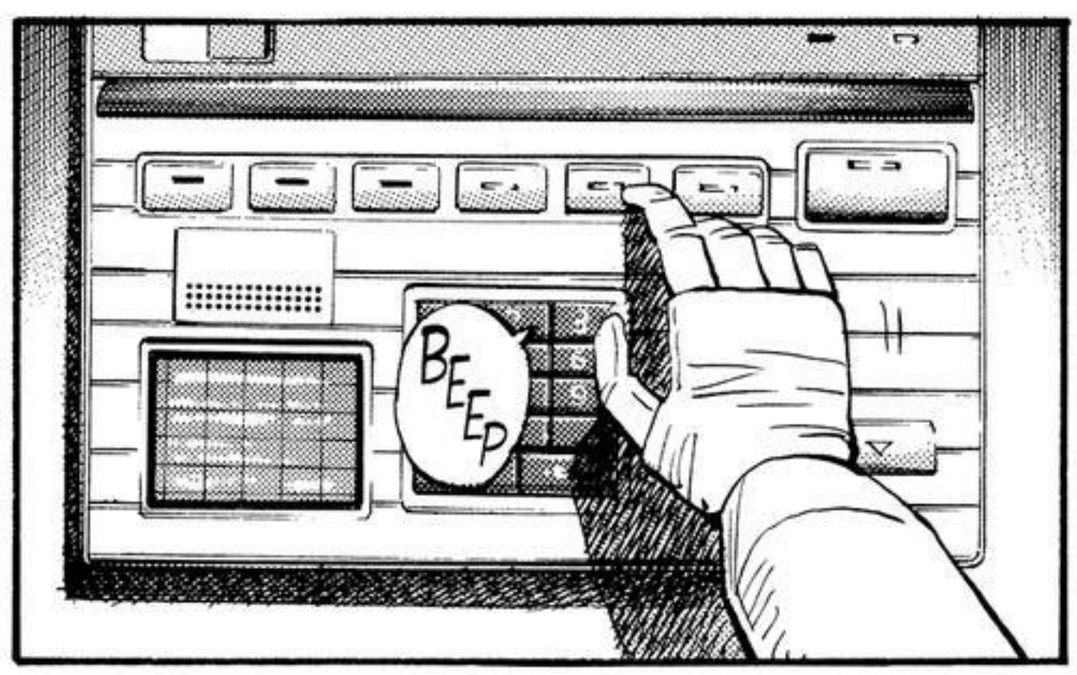
I'M TRYING TO PUT ALL THOSE MEMORIES INTO MY MUSIC...

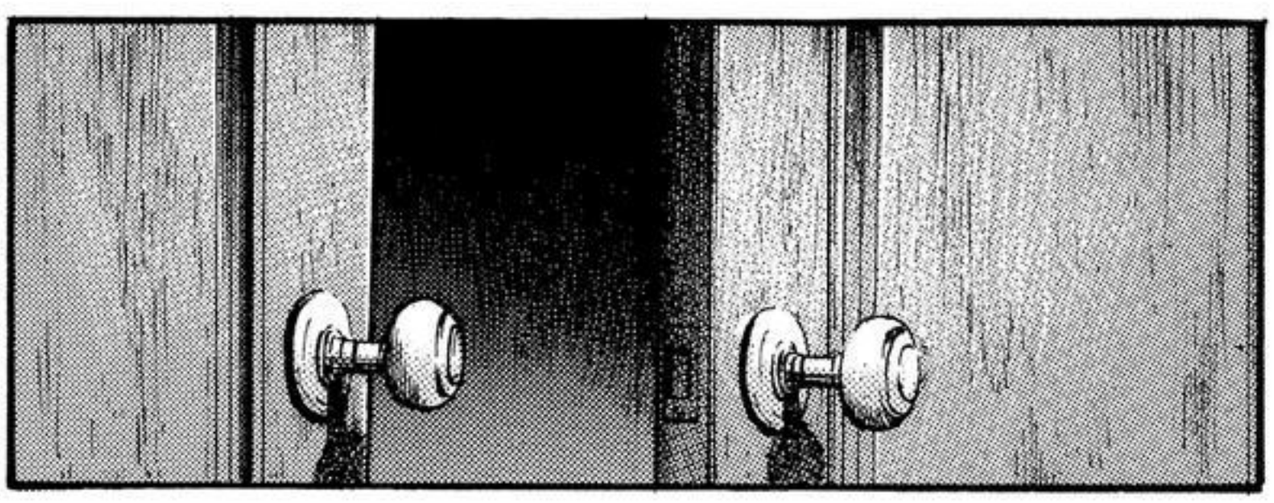


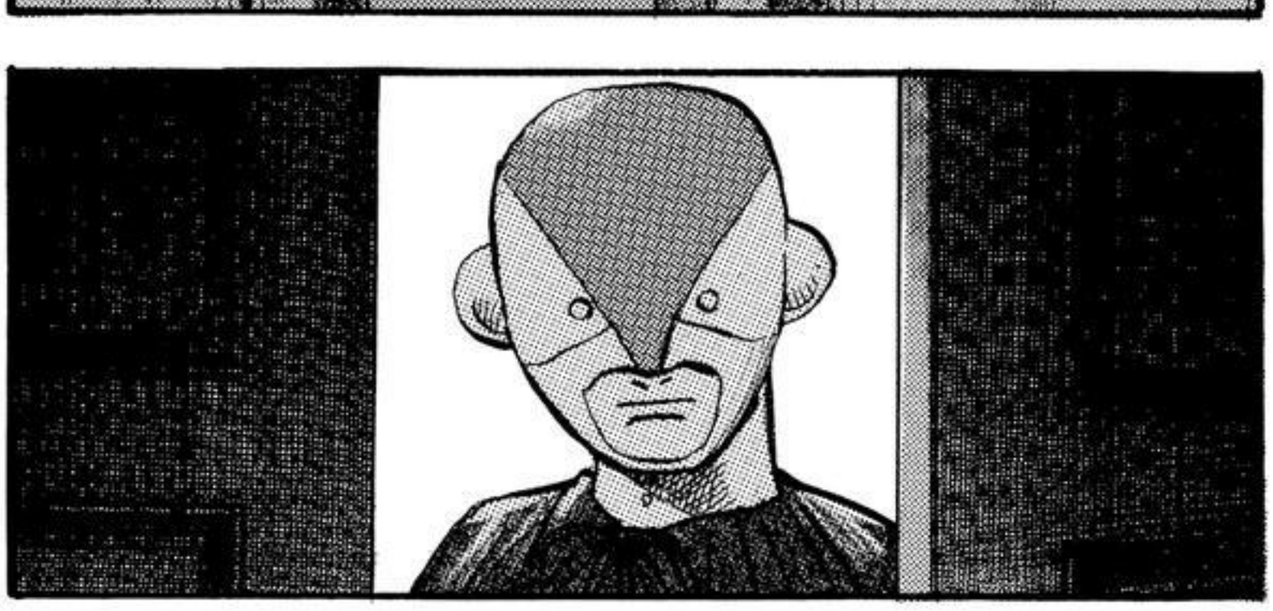
BEEEP

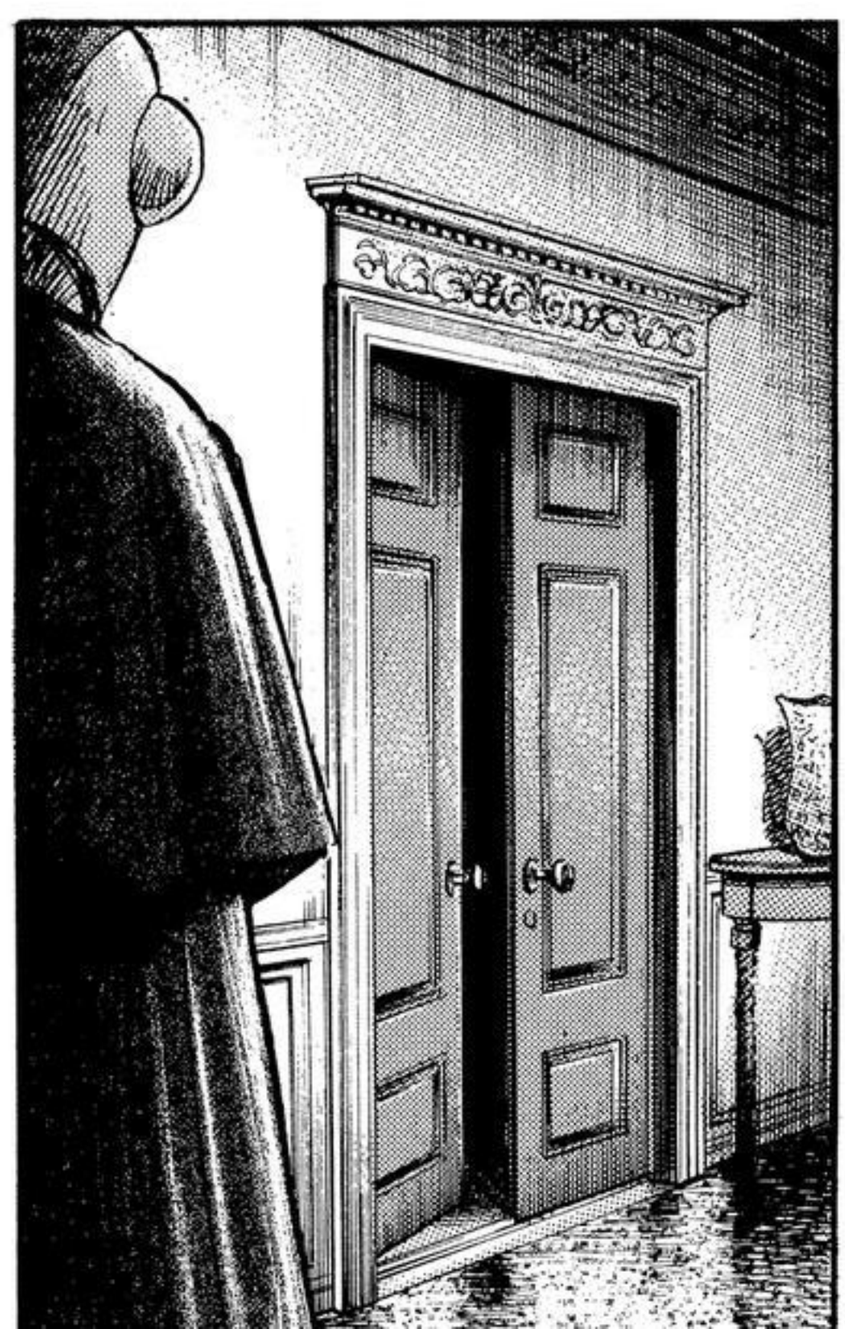


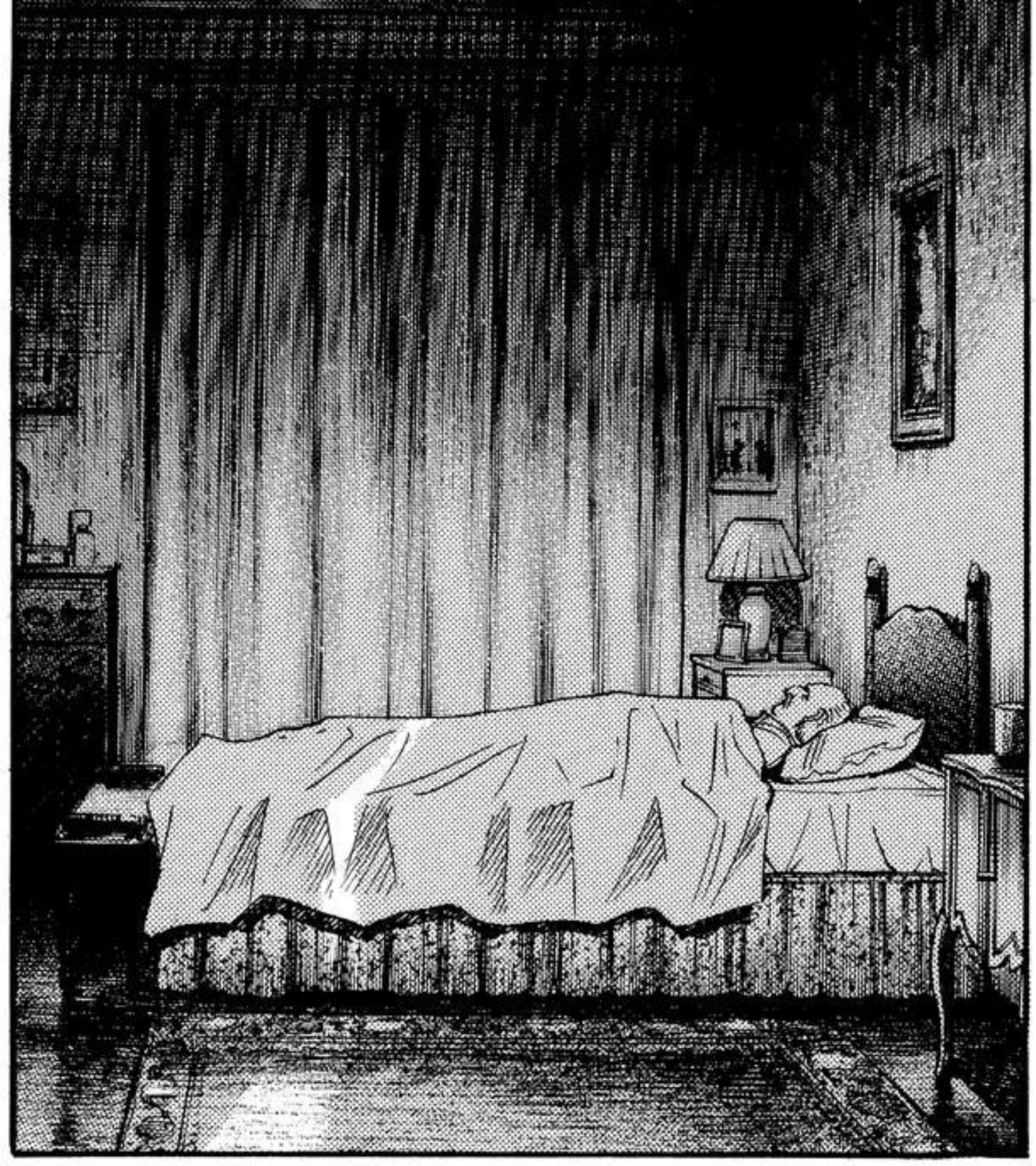



BEEEP



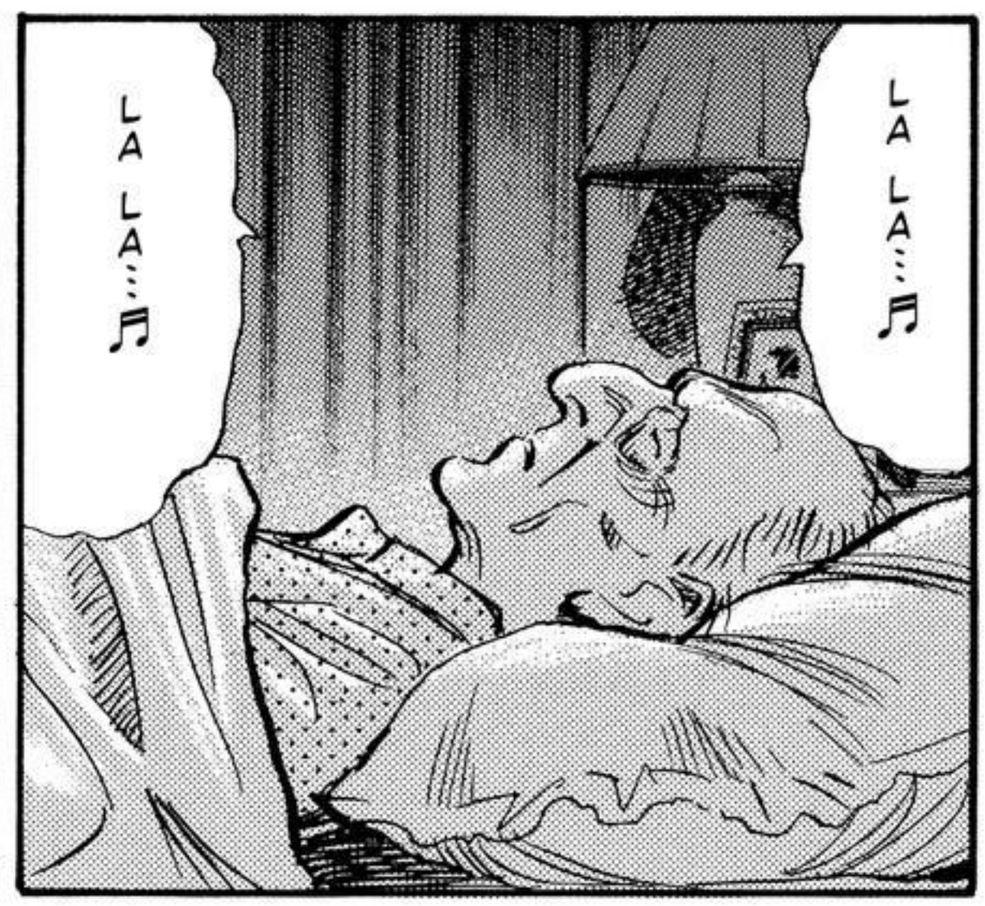


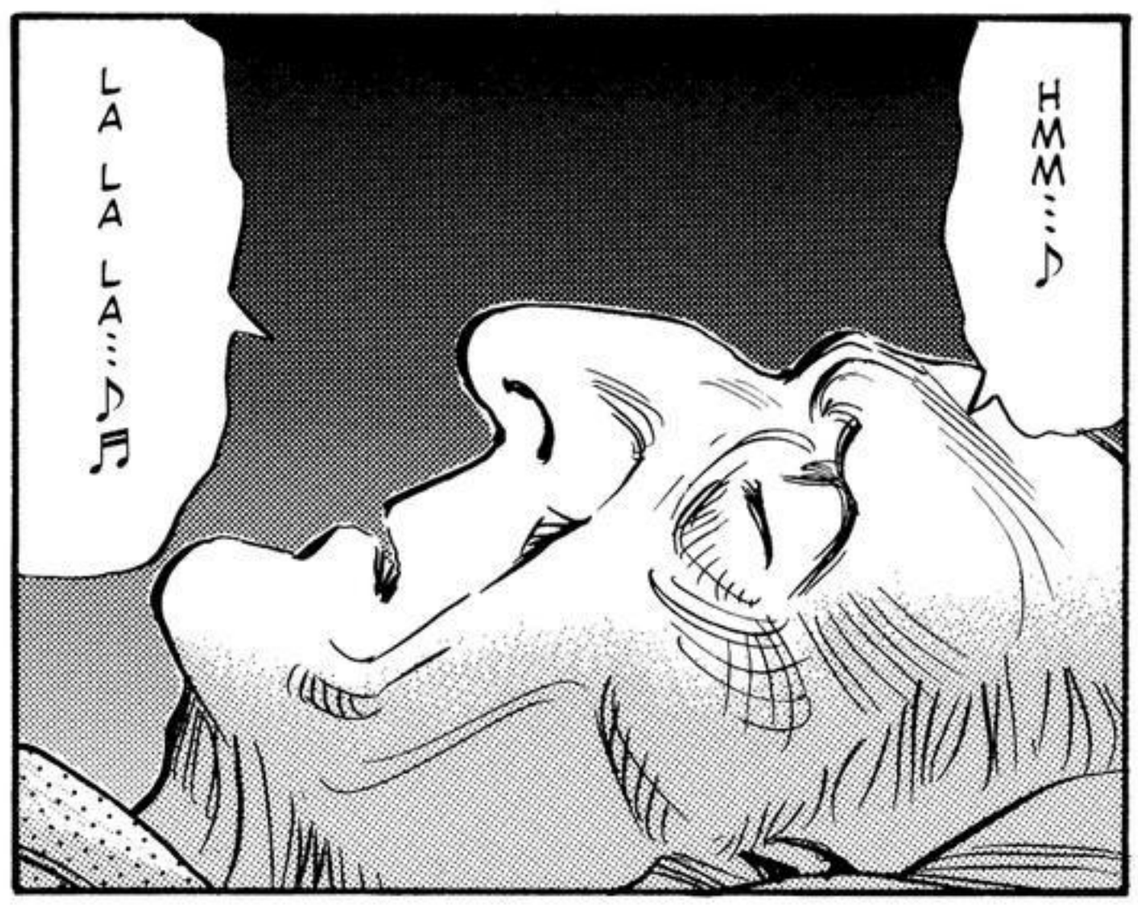




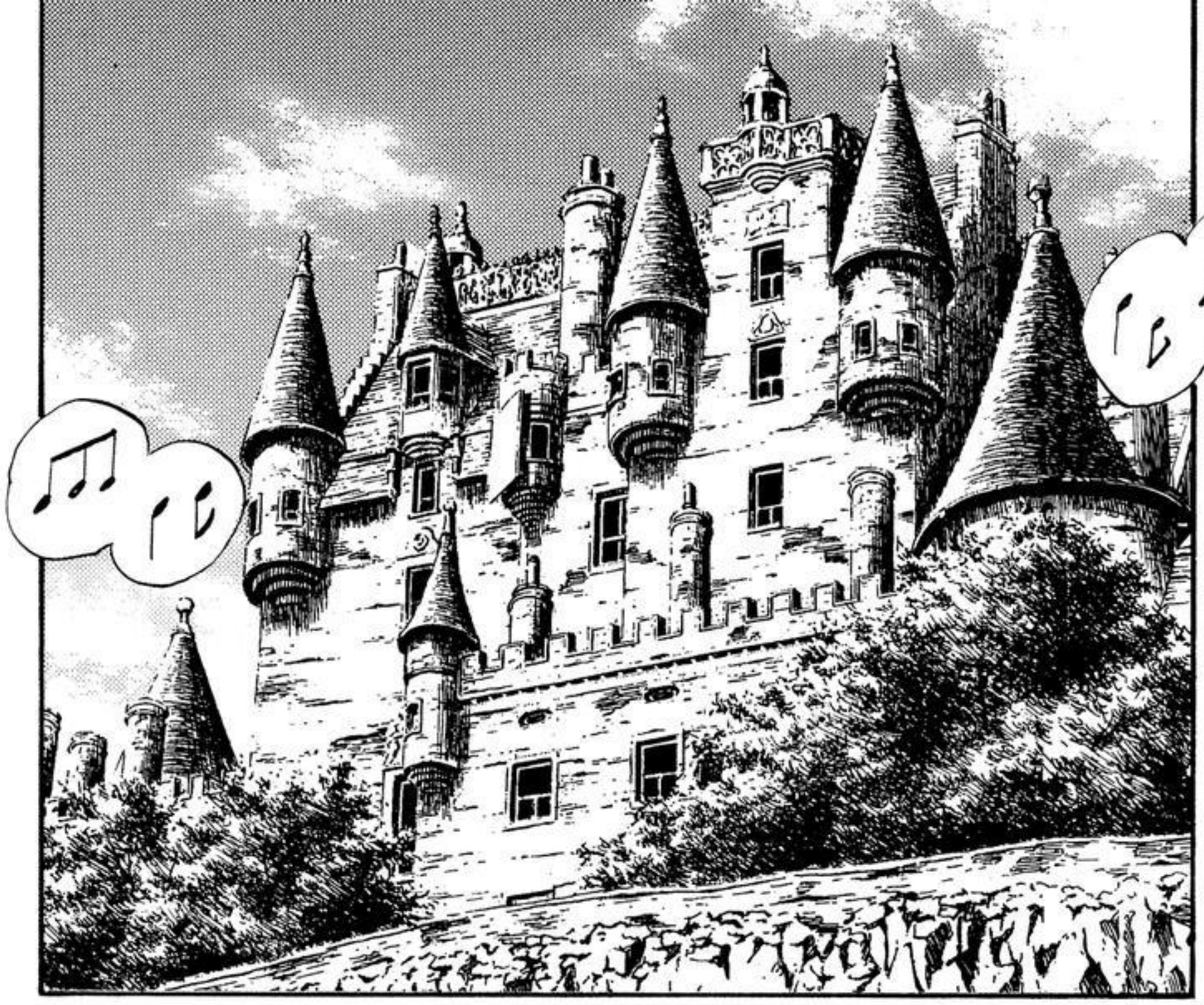
CREEAK

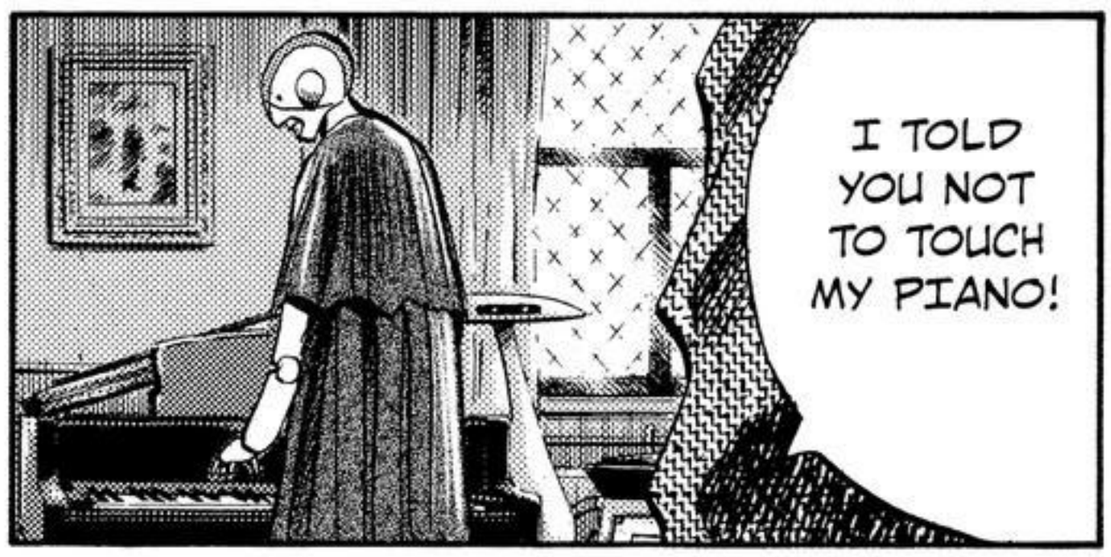
HMM...♪

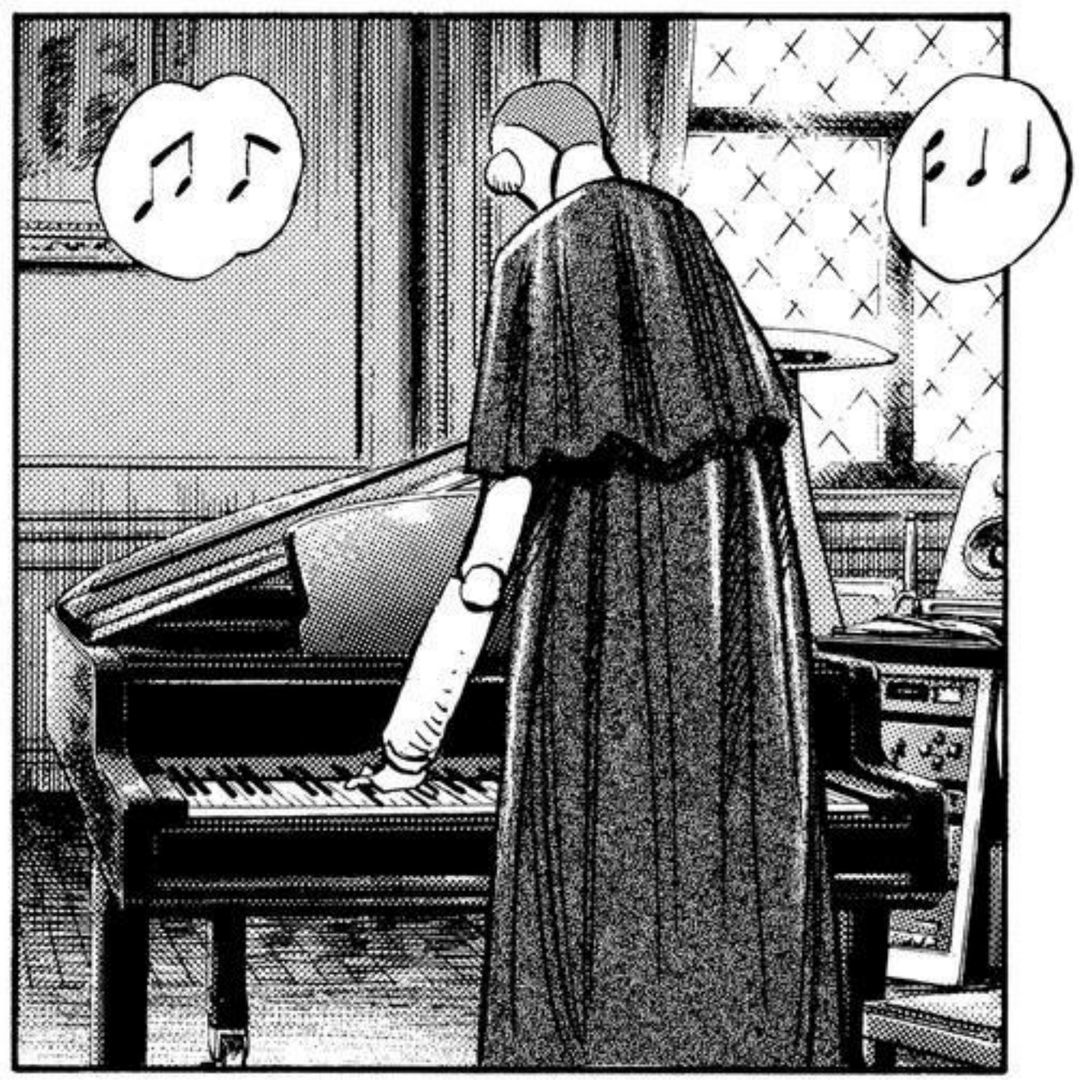

LA LA...♬
LA LA...♬

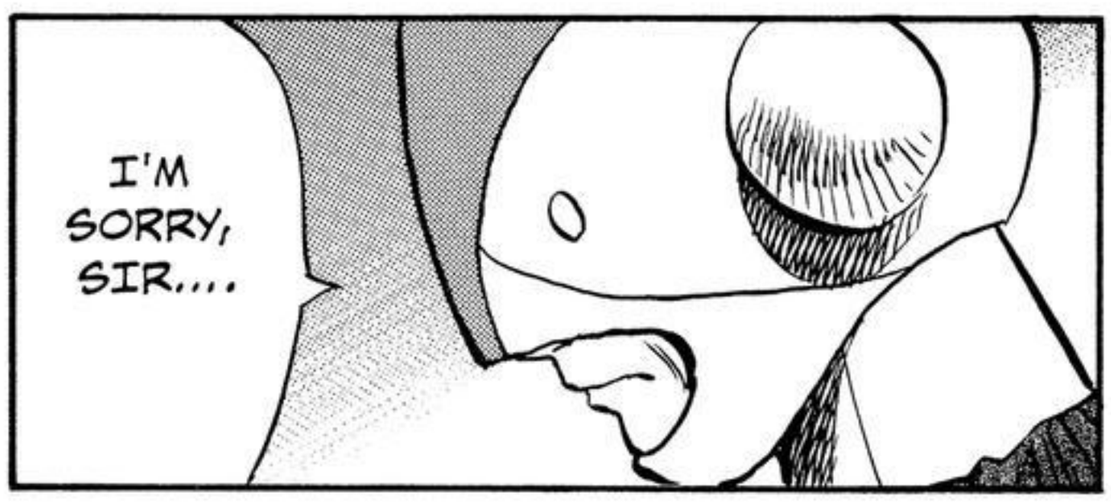

HMM...♪
LA LA LA...♪♬

LA LA...♪
LA LA...♬

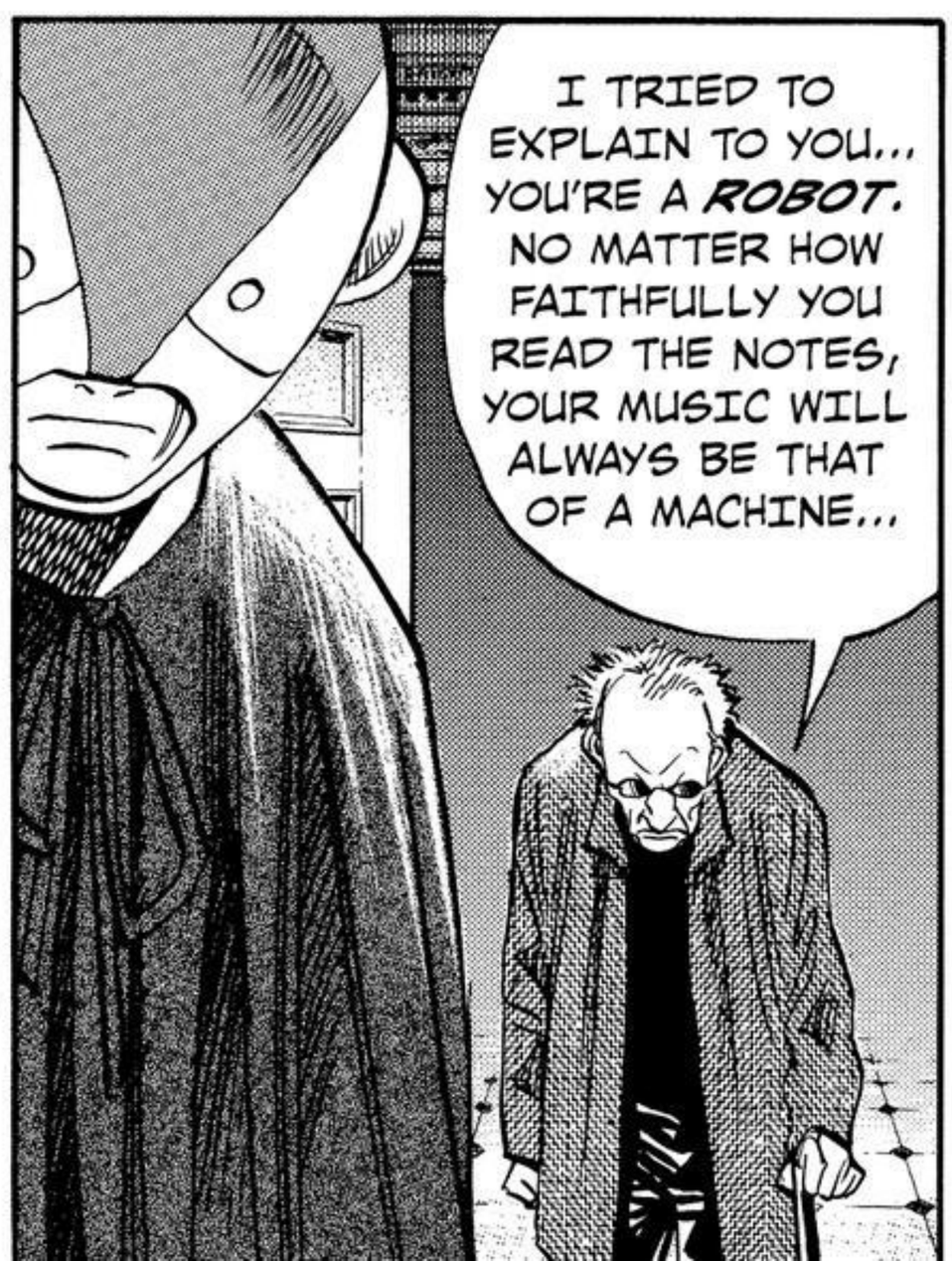



I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH MY PIANO!

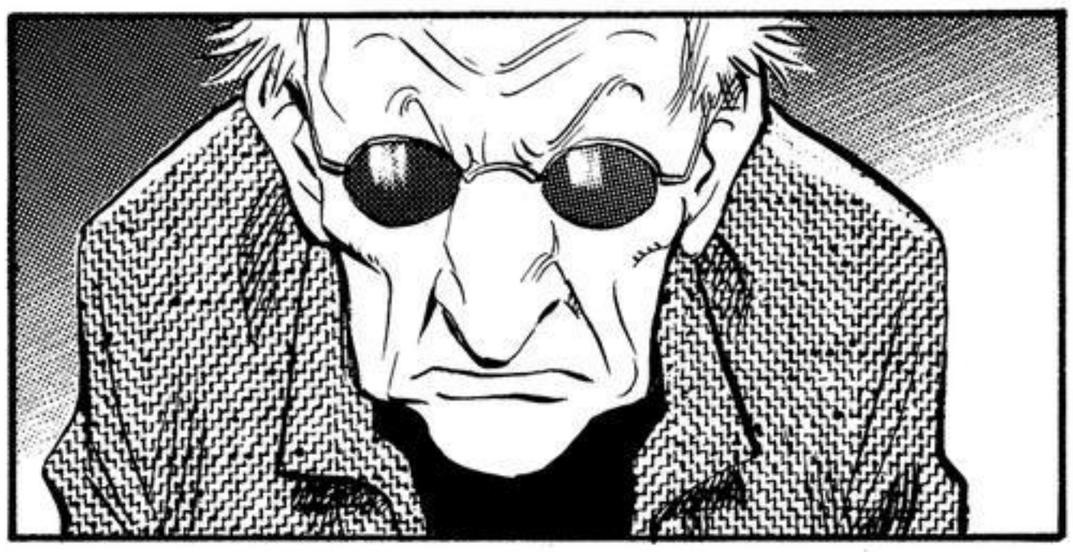



I'M SORRY, SIR....

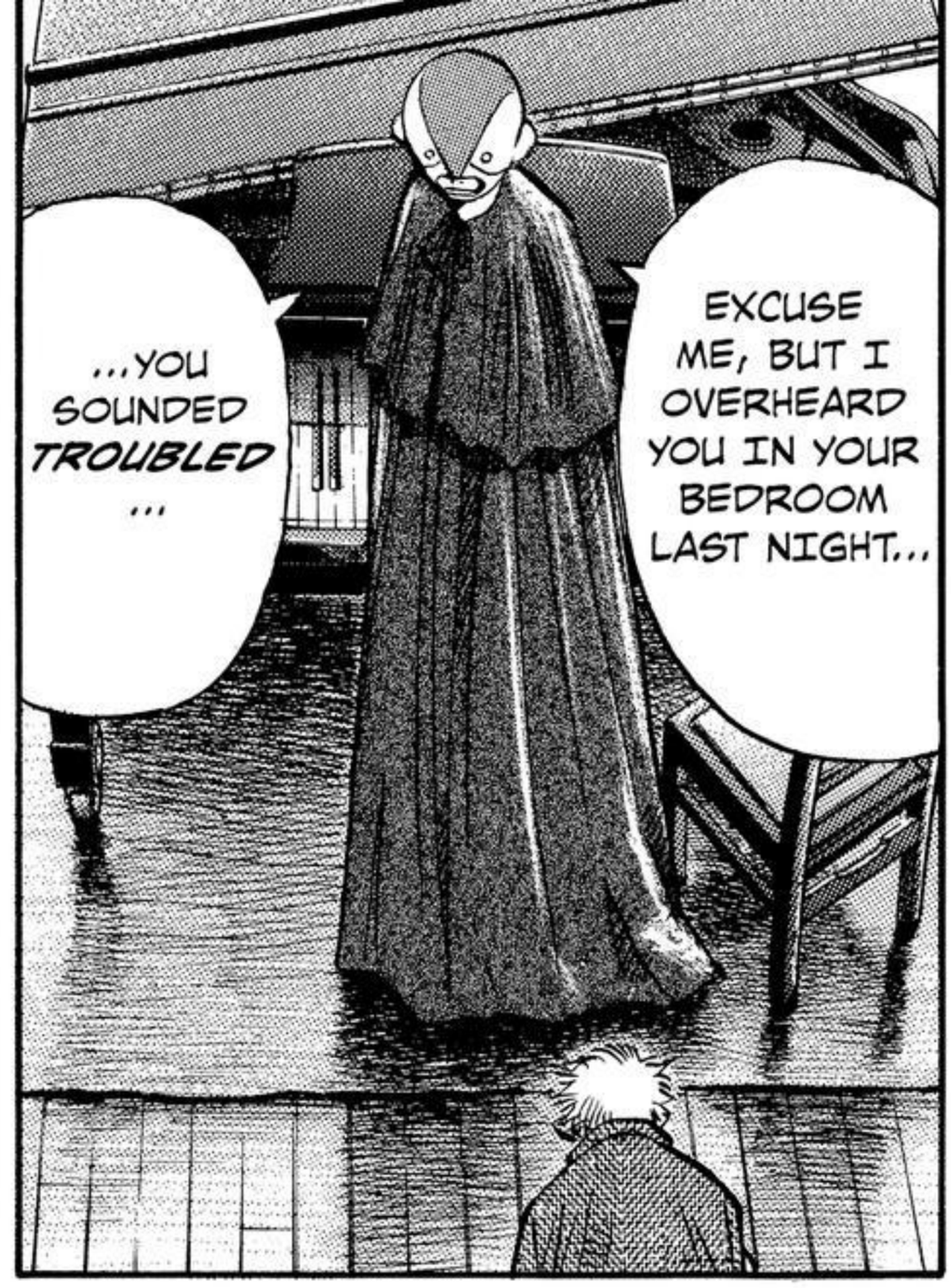
AND IT'S ALL FAKE!


I TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO YOU... YOU'RE A ROBOT. NO MATTER HOW FAITHFULLY YOU READ THE NOTES, YOUR MUSIC WILL ALWAYS BE THAT OF A MACHINE...

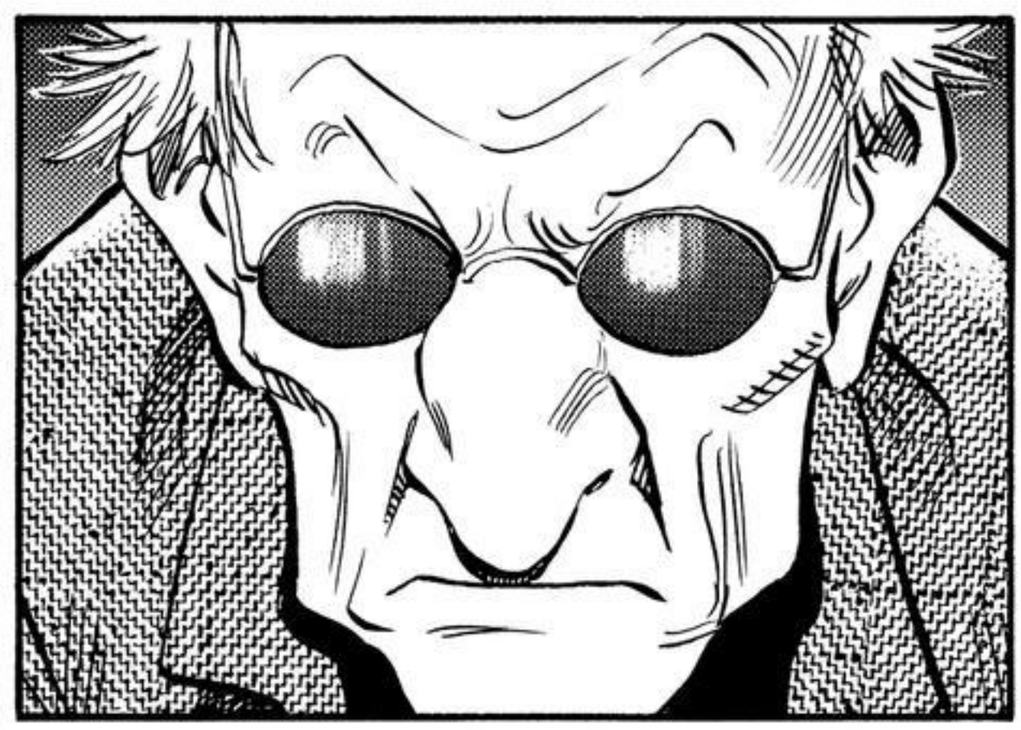
SIR...



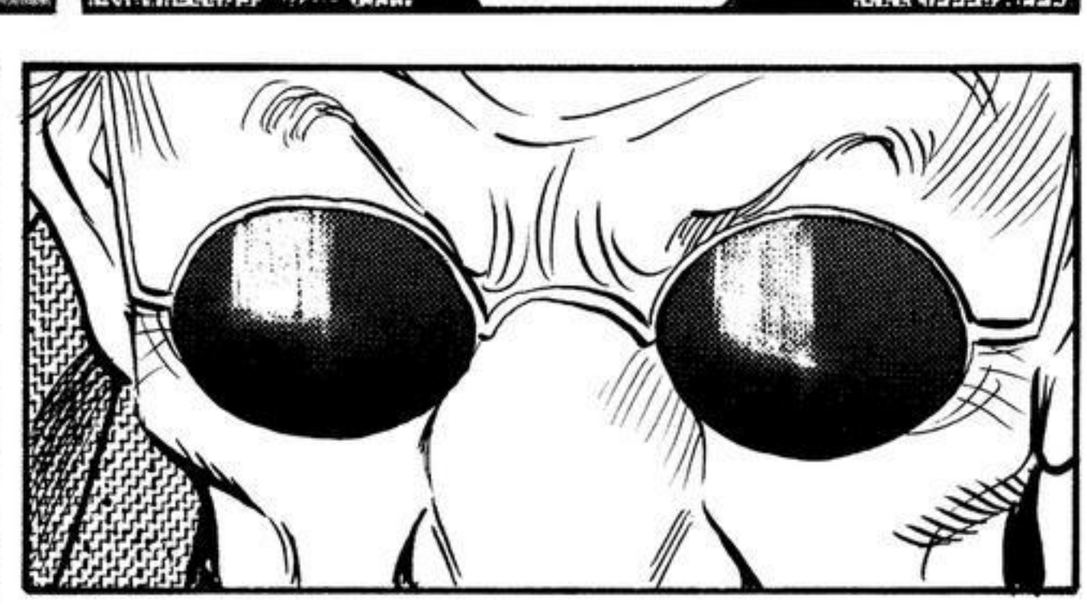
BUT YOU WERE HUMMING A MELODY... IN YOUR SLEEP...

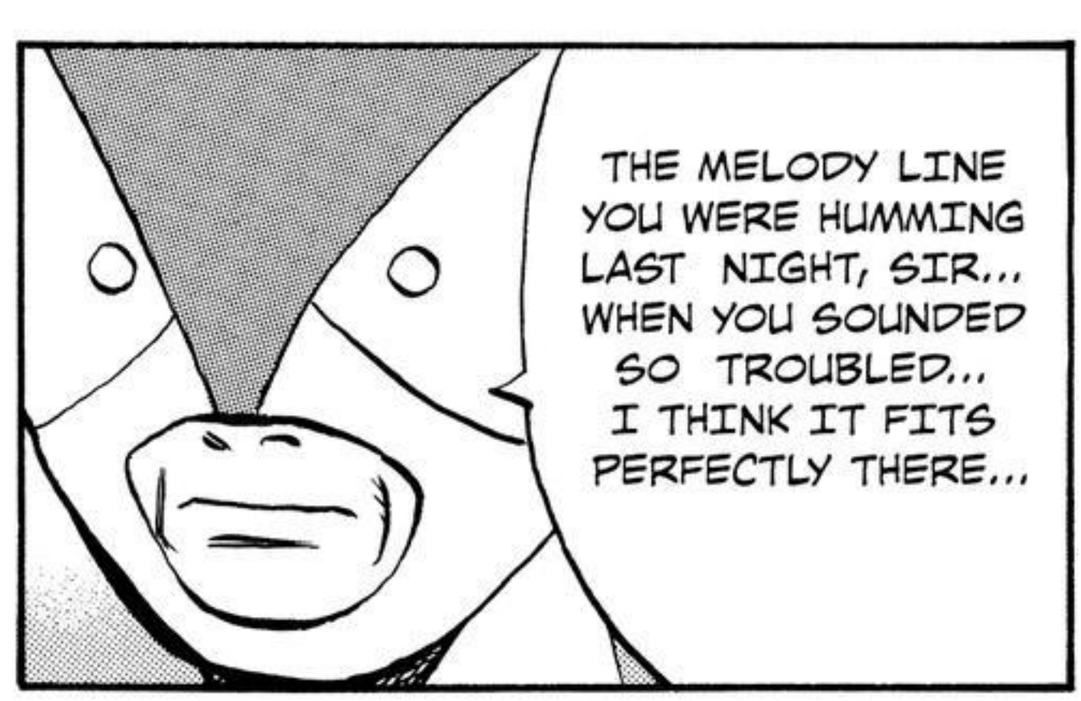

...YOU SOUNDED TROUBLED ...
EXCUSE ME, BUT I OVERHEARD YOU IN YOUR BEDROOM LAST NIGHT...

...YOU WERE HUMMING THE PART THAT YOU'VE BEEN STUCK ON...
AND... THIS MUSICAL PIECE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON...



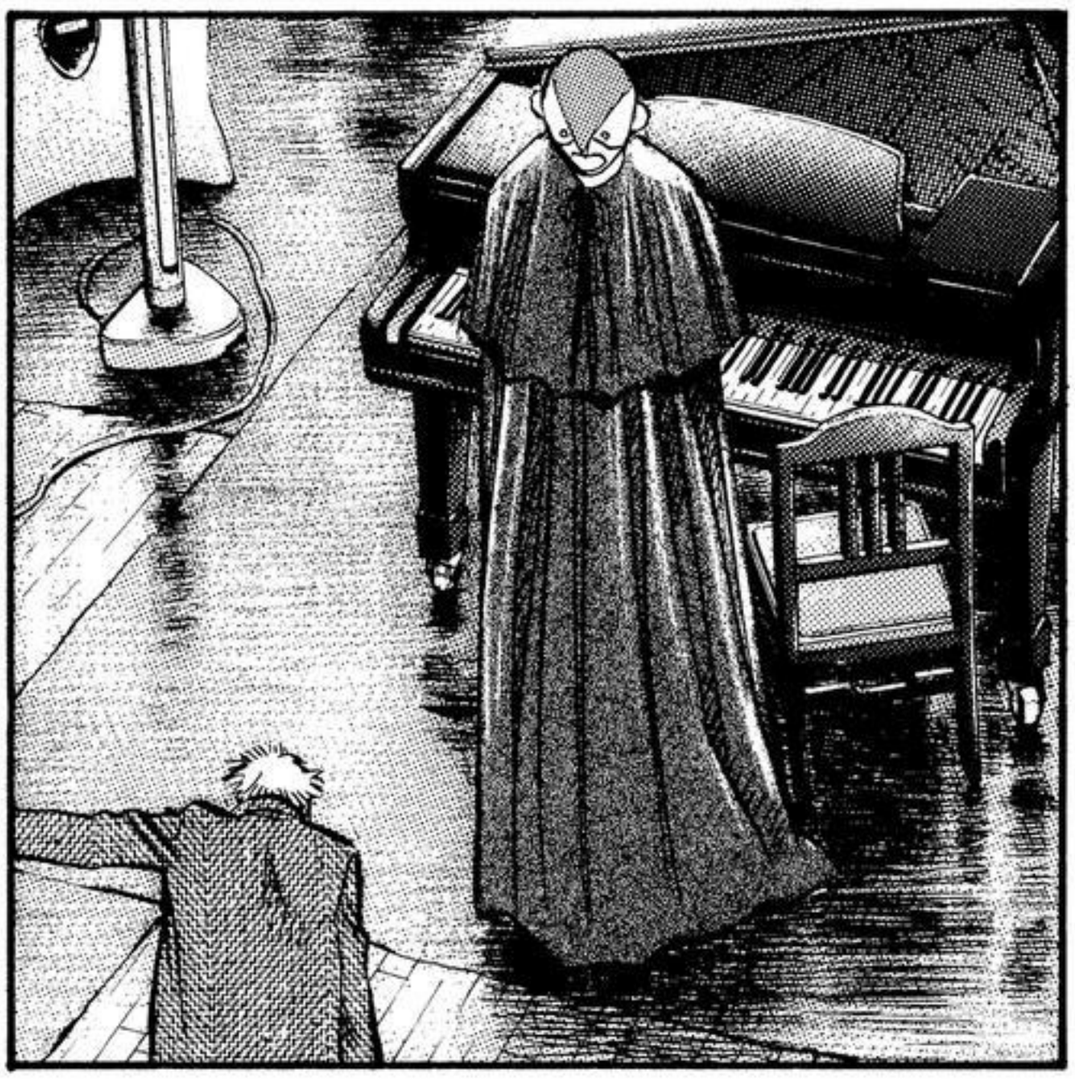
♫
I'M NOT CERTAIN, BUT IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
GET OUT OF HERE!!

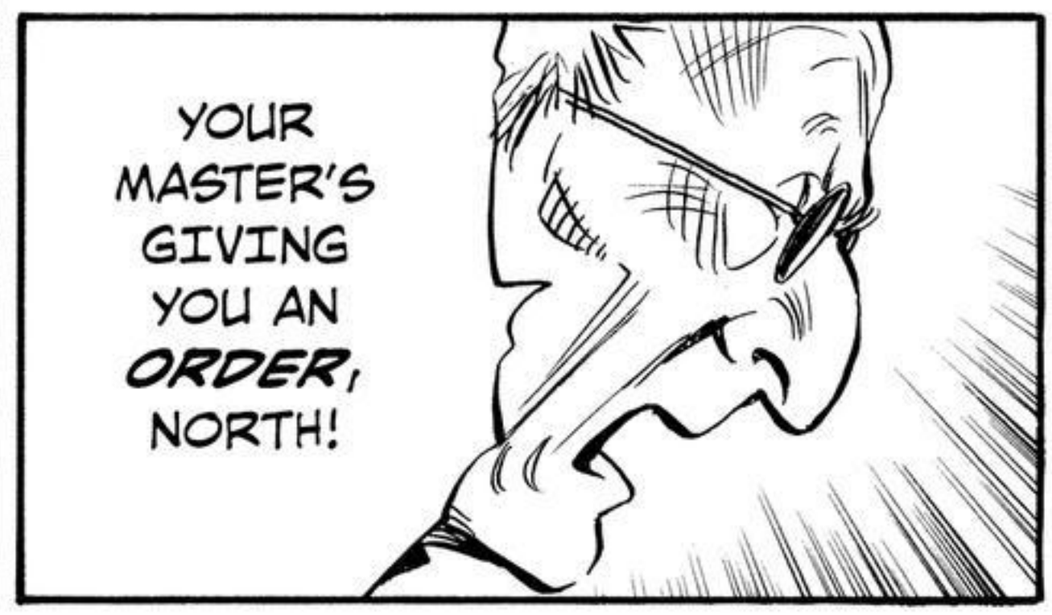


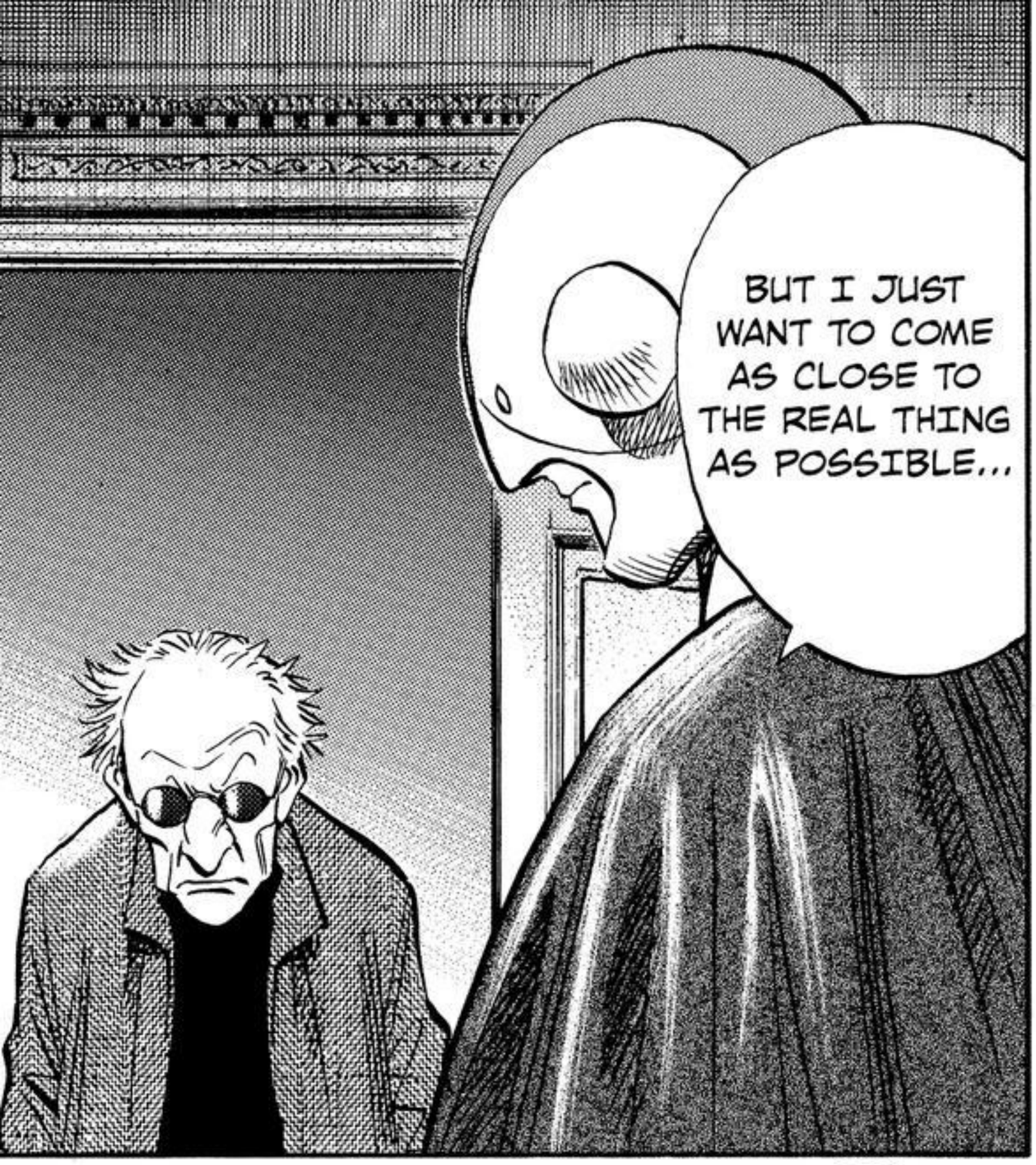

THE MELODY LINE YOU WERE HUMMING LAST NIGHT, SIR... WHEN YOU SOUNDED SO TROUBLED... I THINK IT FITS PERFECTLY THERE...

YOU'RE *FIRED*! LEAVE THIS MANSION... *NOW*!

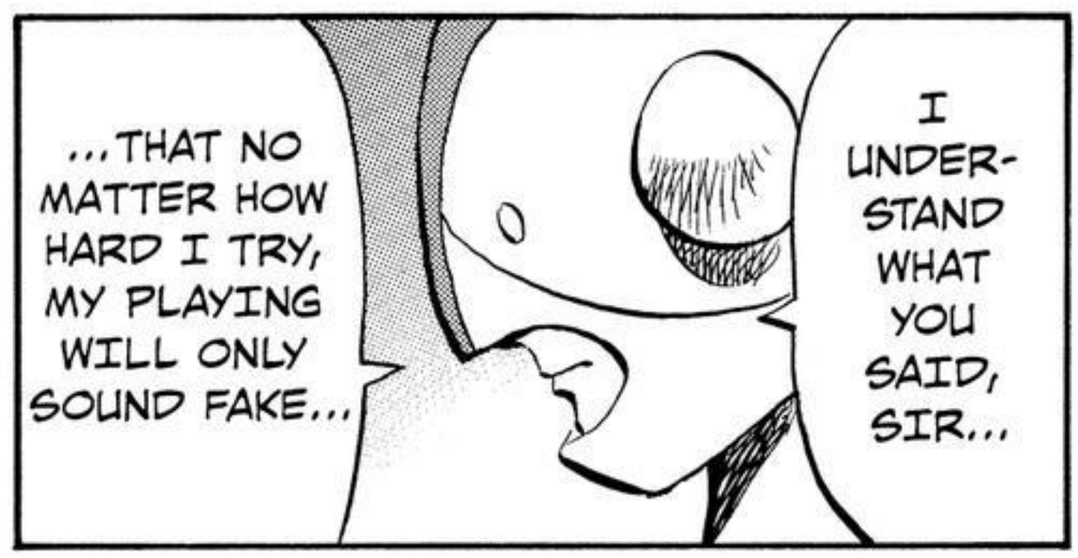
I HAVE NO USE FOR A ROBOT LIKE YOU, NORTH...



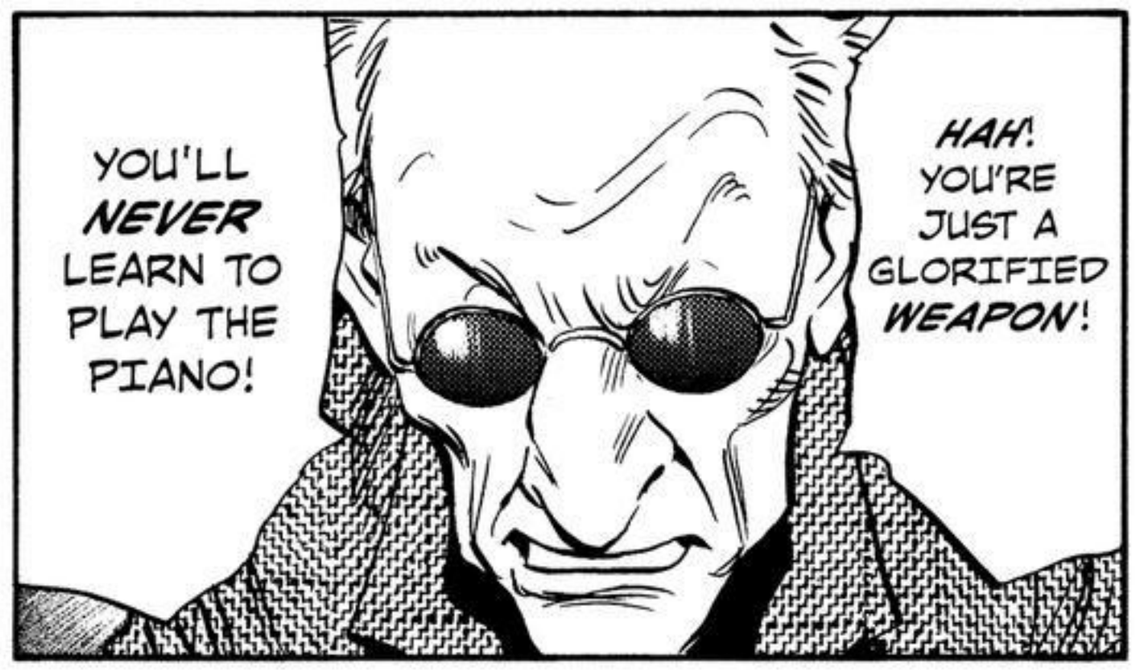


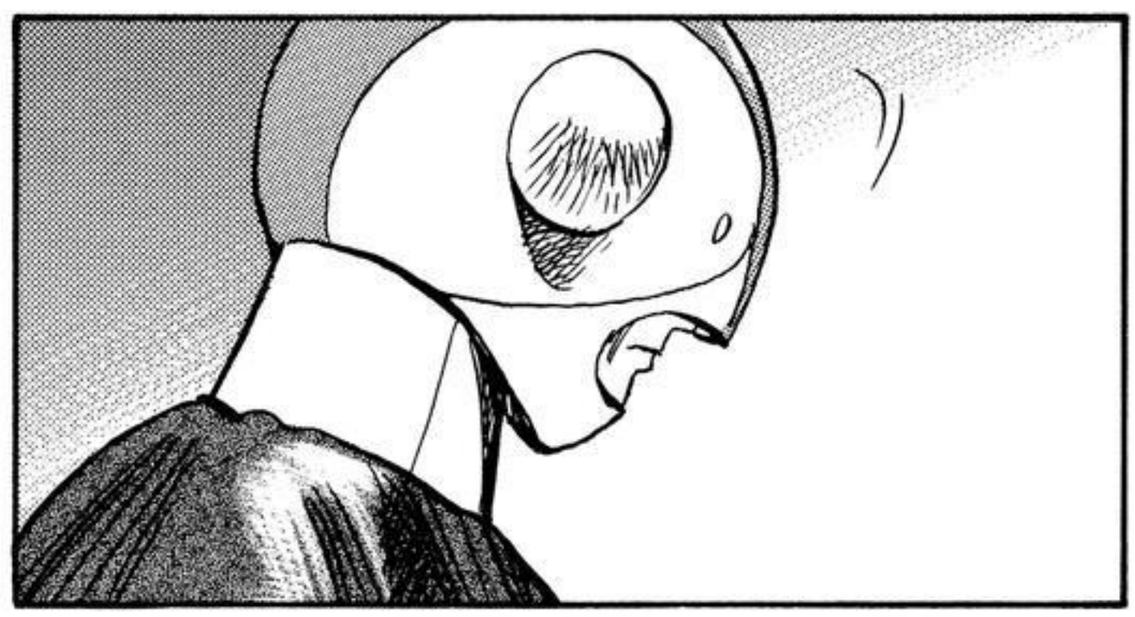

BUT I JUST WANT TO COME AS CLOSE TO THE REAL THING AS POSSIBLE...

YOU WHAT ?!


...THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, MY PLAYING WILL ONLY SOUND FAKE...
I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU SAID, SIR...

STOP, NORTH! THAT PIANO'S NOT DESIGNED TO BE TOUCHED BY A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION!


YOU'LL NEVER LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO!
HAH! YOU'RE JUST A GLORIFIED WEAPON!



YOU BELONG OUT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, NOT HERE!
FF

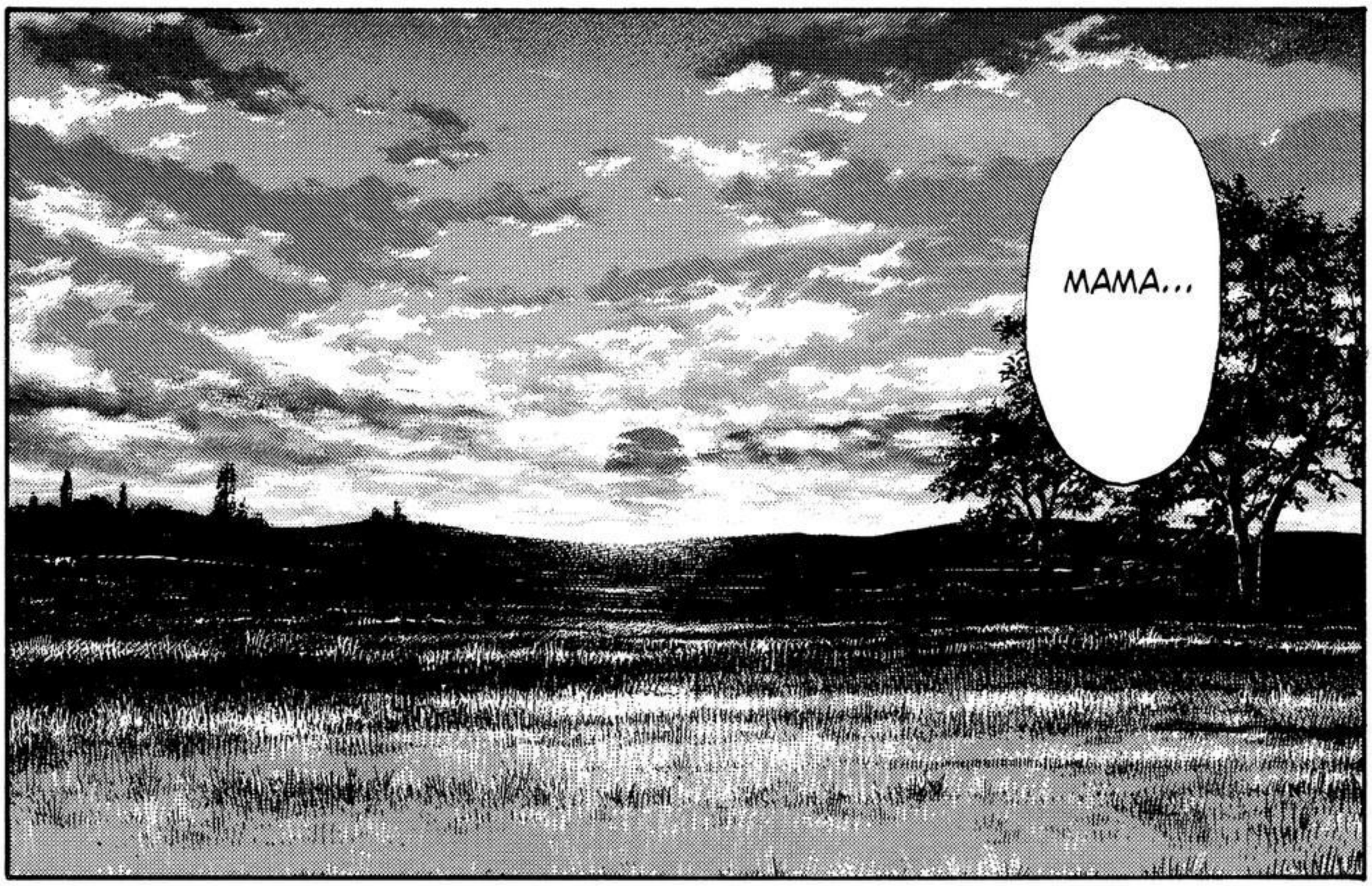
I DON'T EVER WANT TO...

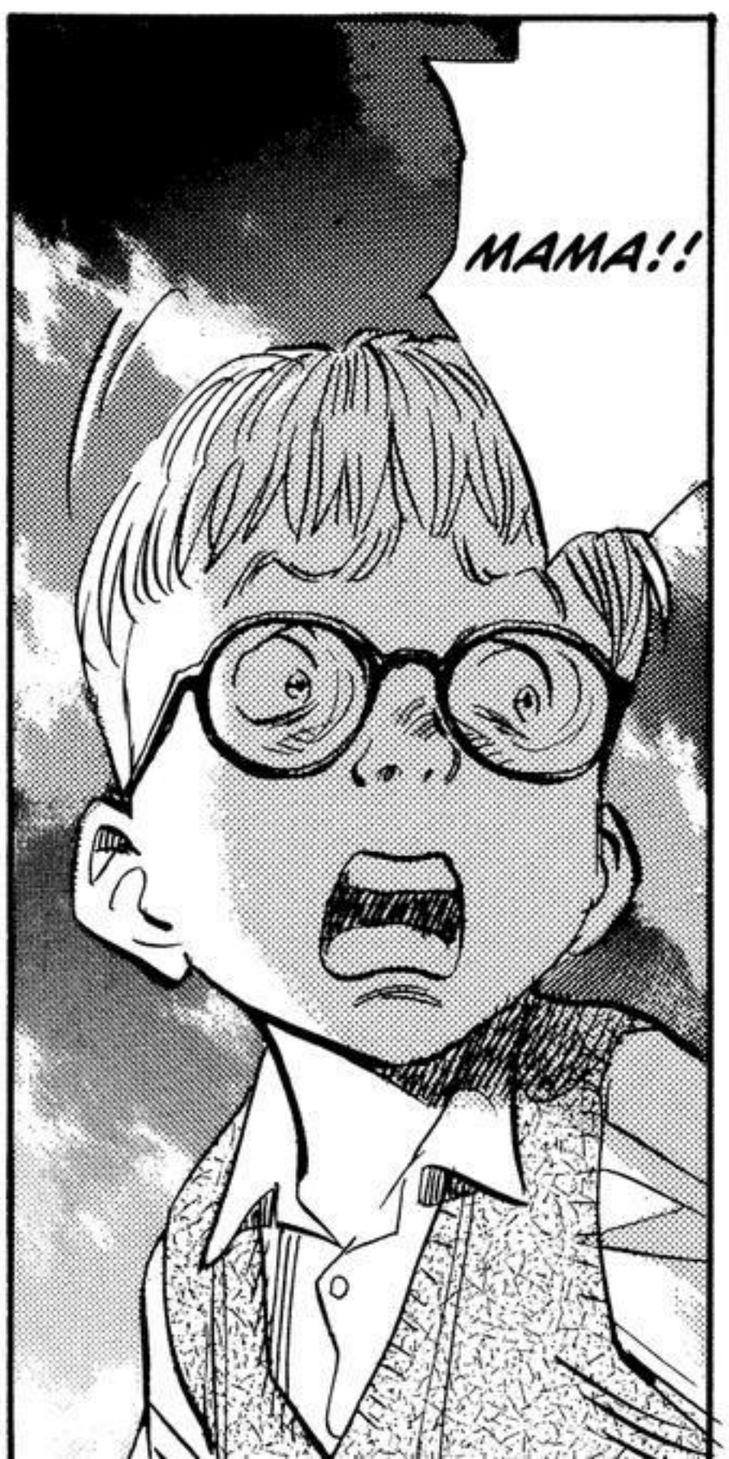
BUT THAT'S WHY I WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY, SIR.

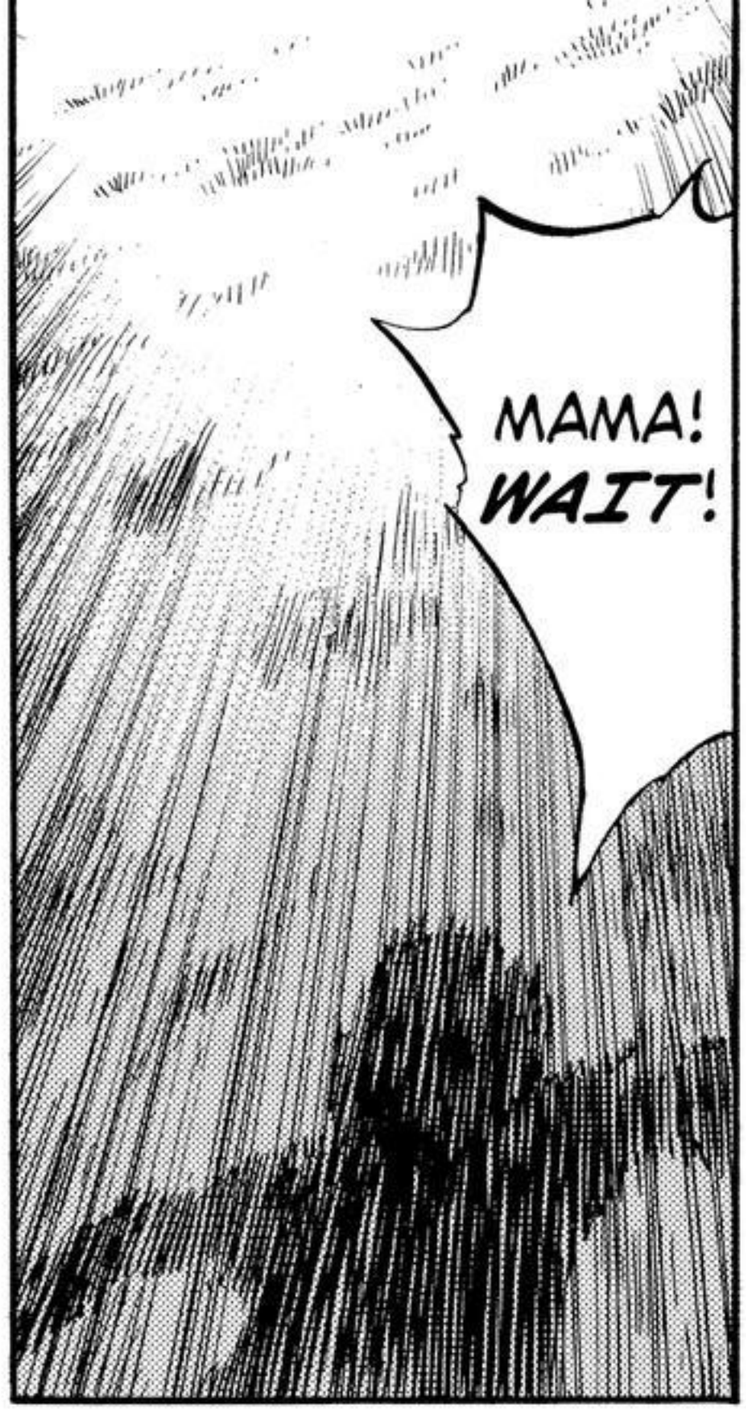
...GO TO WAR AGAIN...

Act 5

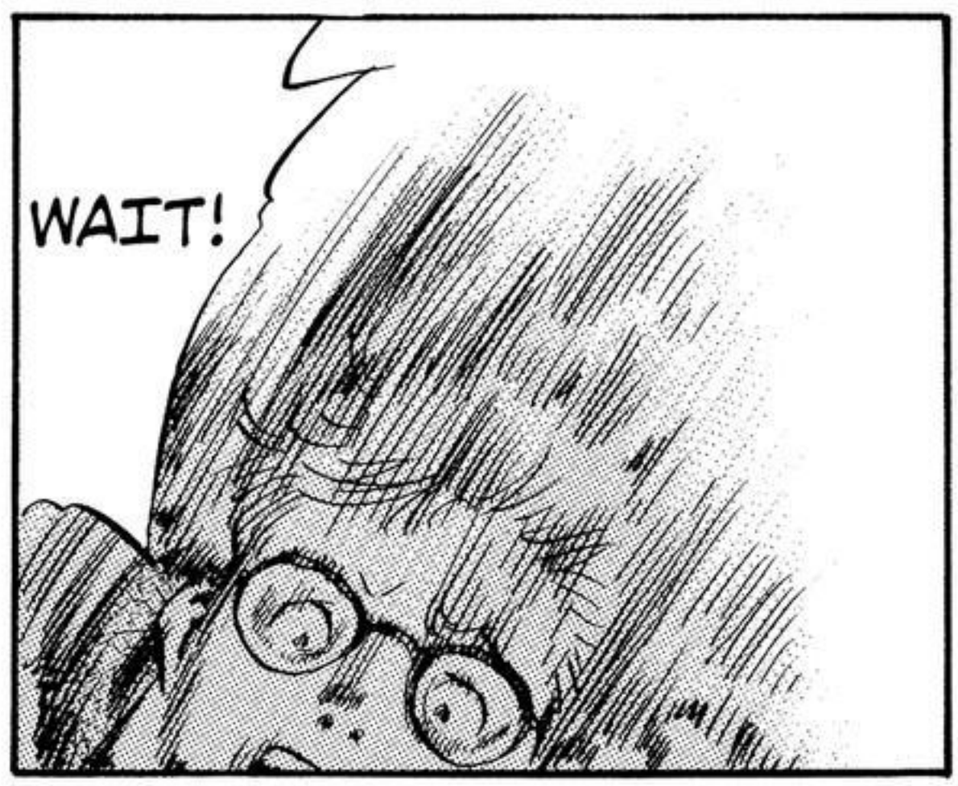
NORTH No. 2 (Part 2)



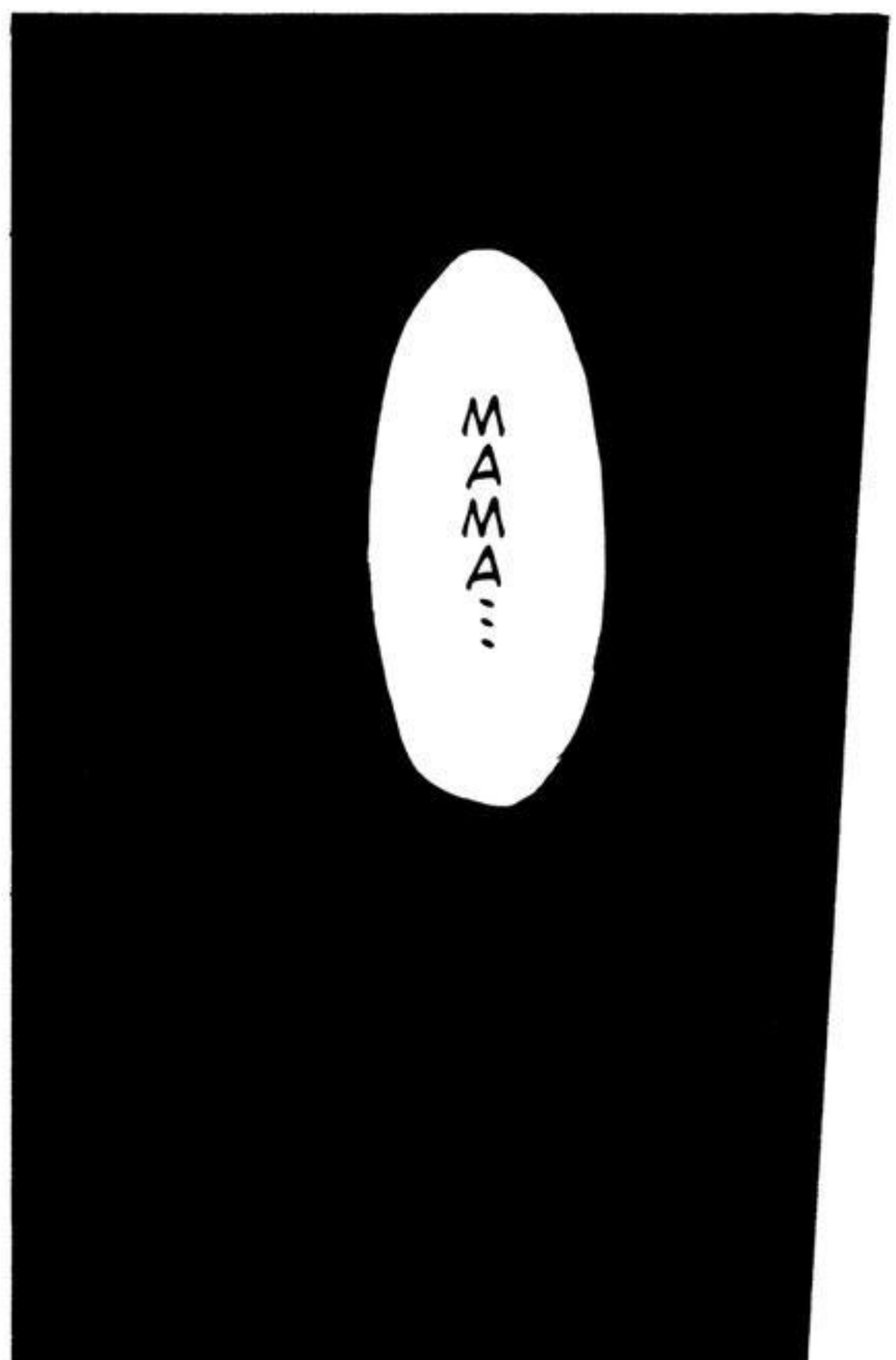



MAMA!
WAIT!

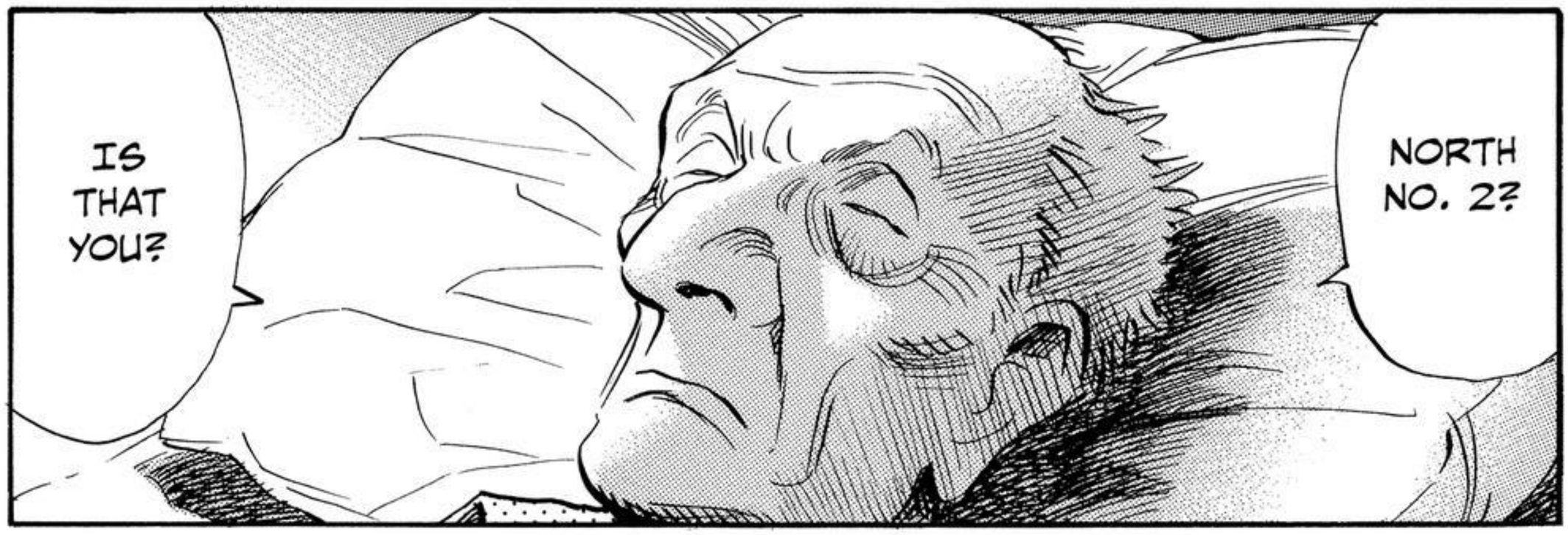
MAMA!!


WAIT!

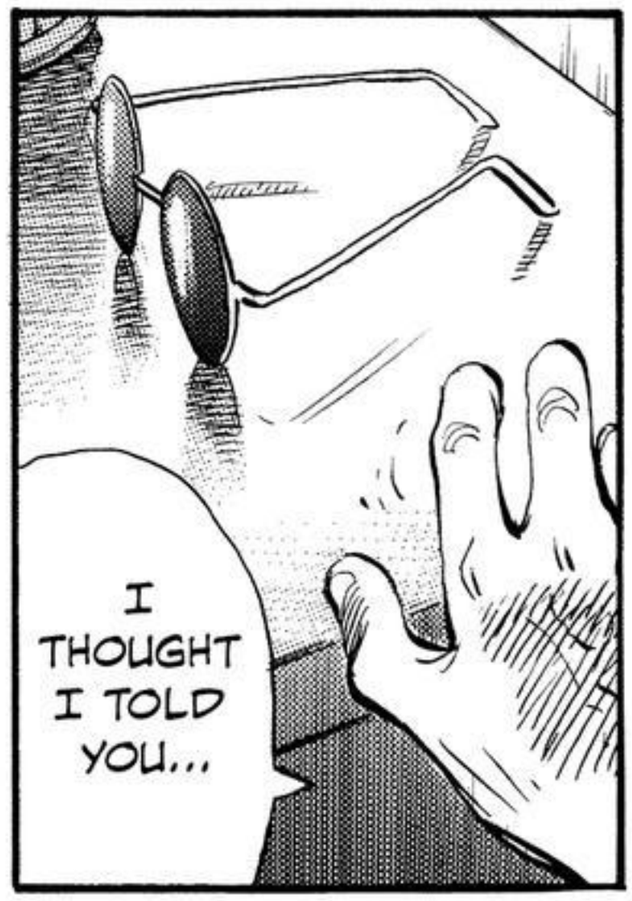
DON'T GO, MAMA!

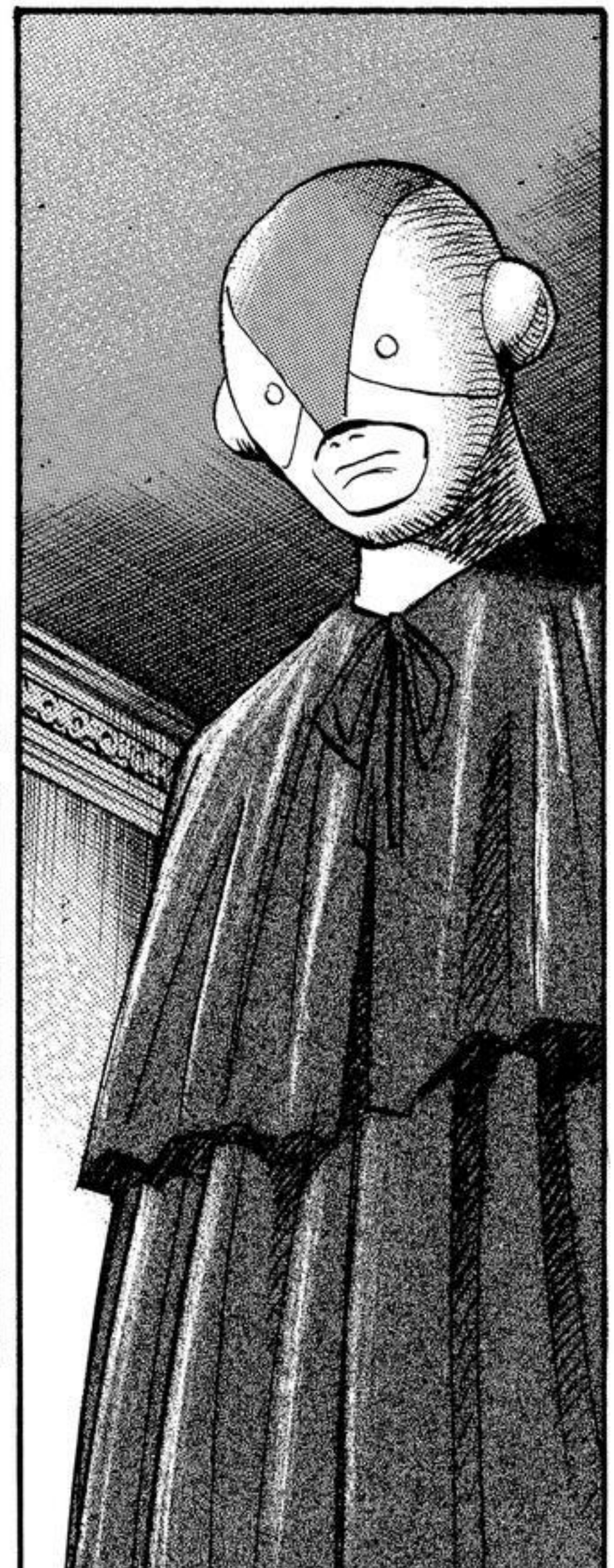

MAMA...

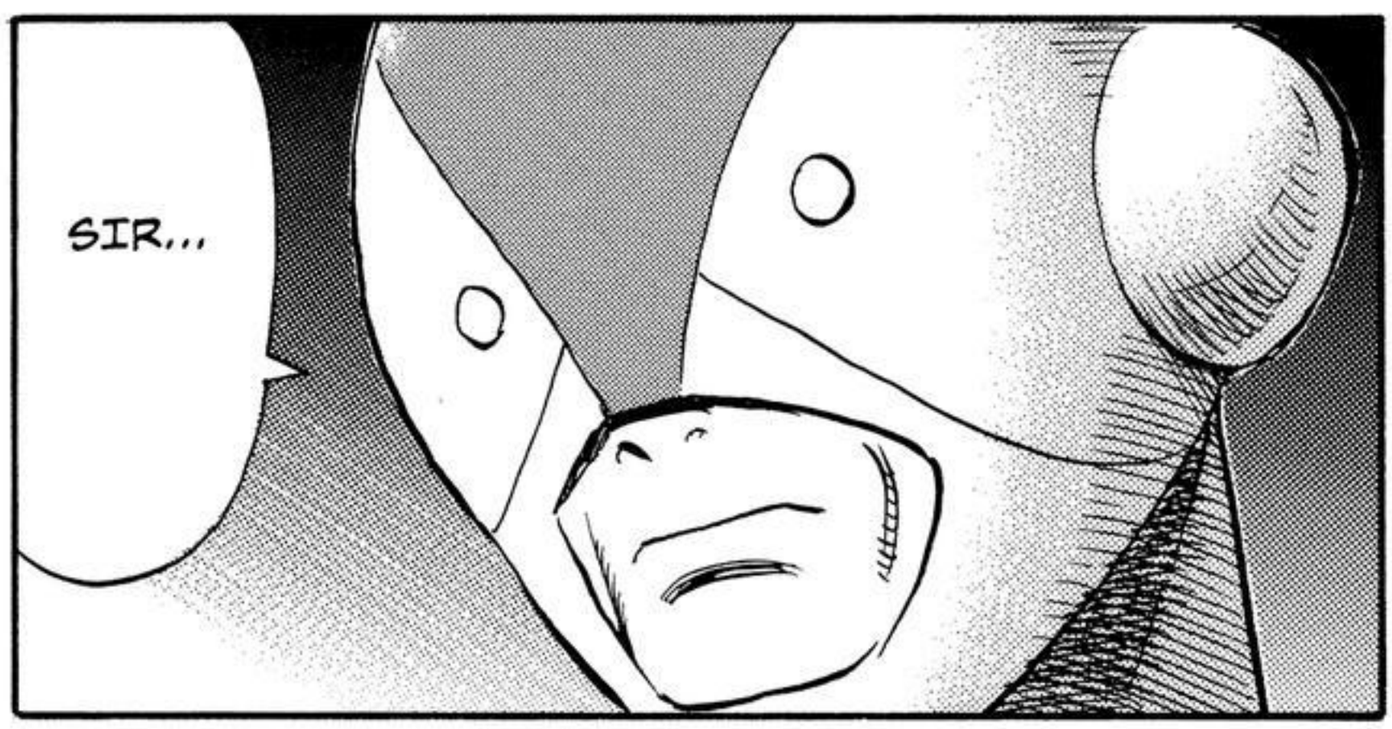
YOU...


IS THAT YOU?
NORTH NO. 2?

...NEVER TO ENTER MY BED-ROOM...


I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU...



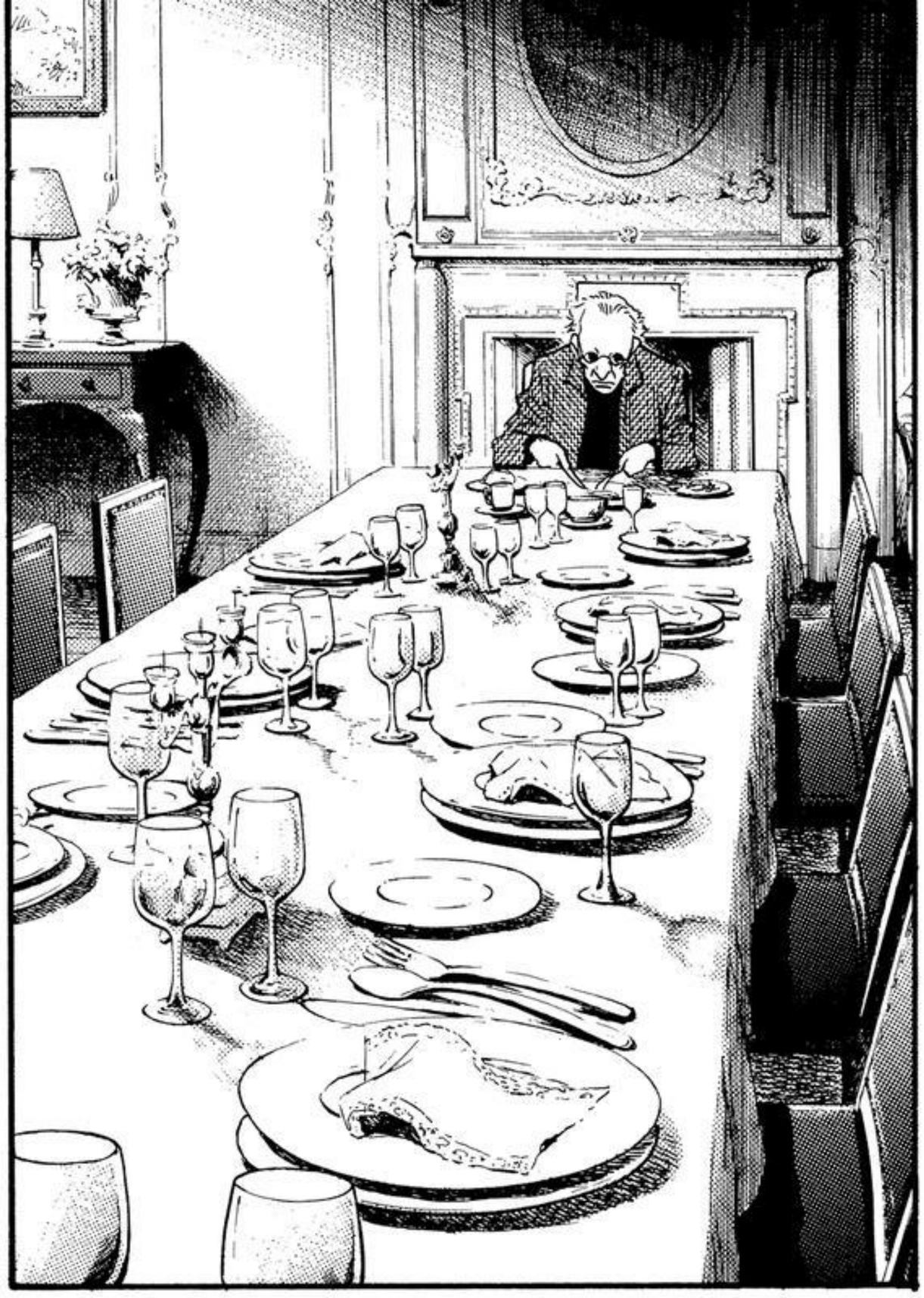

SIR...

...YOUR BREAKFAST IS READY.

Act 5

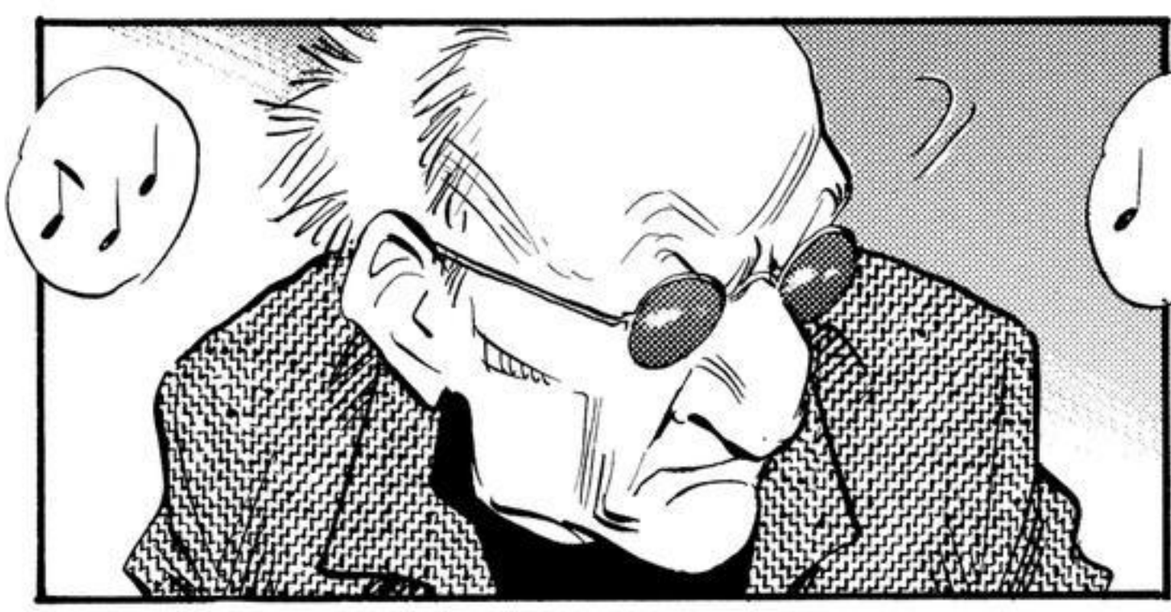
NORTH No. 2 (Part 2)

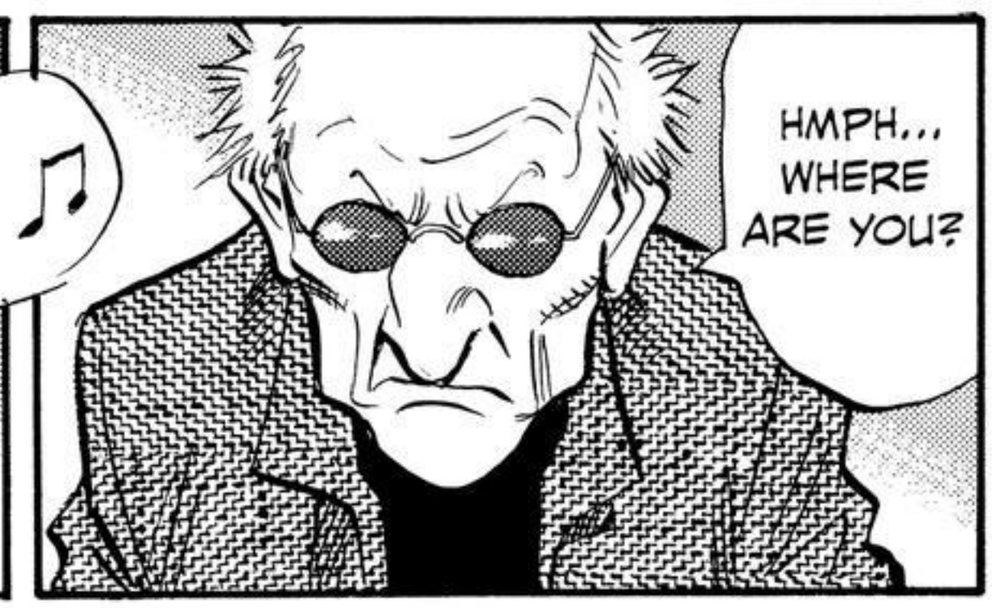
SCOTLAND, EURO FEDERATION



SCRAPE
SCRAPE

DIDN'T I FIRE YOU?

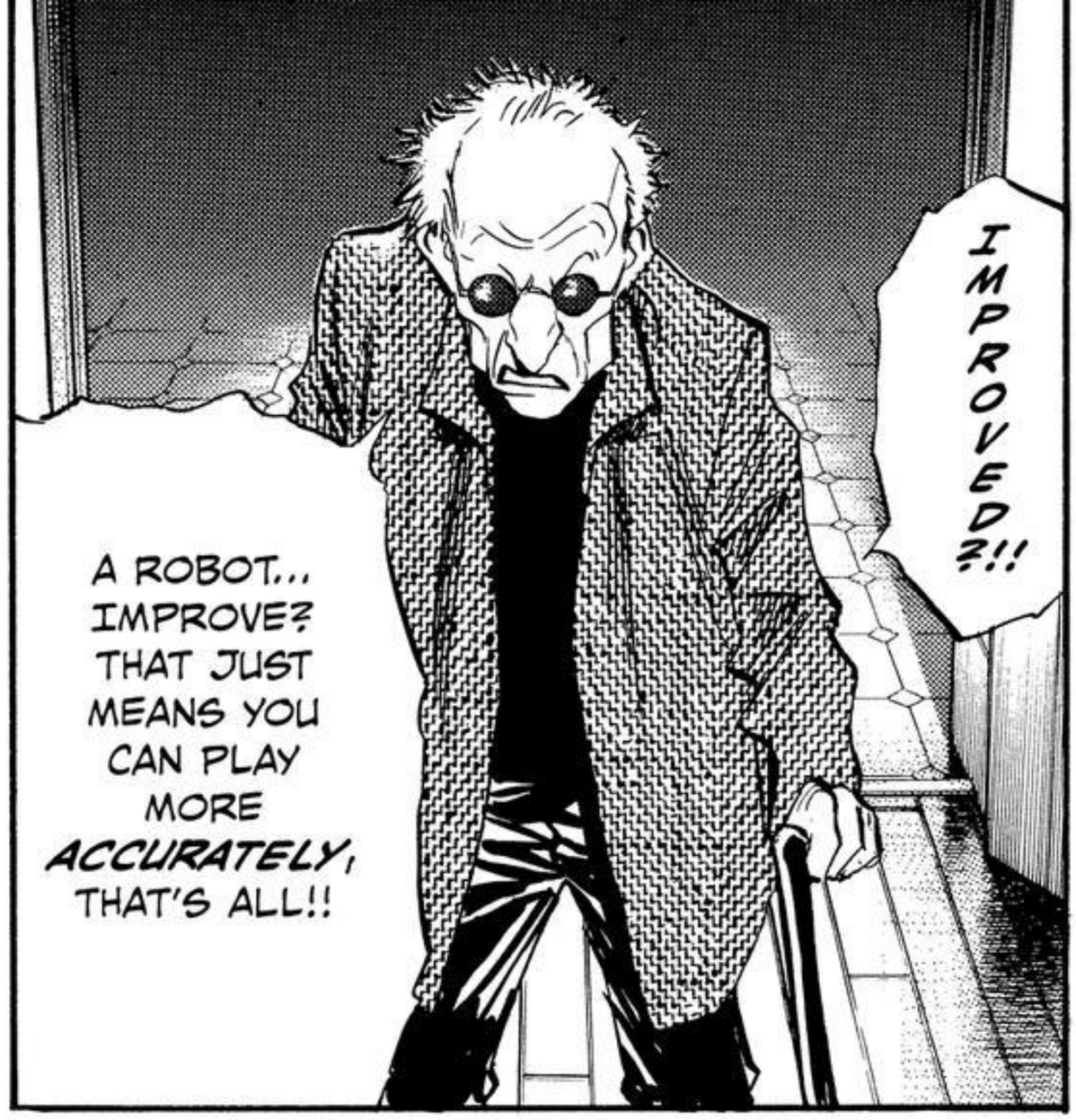



HMPH... WHERE ARE YOU?

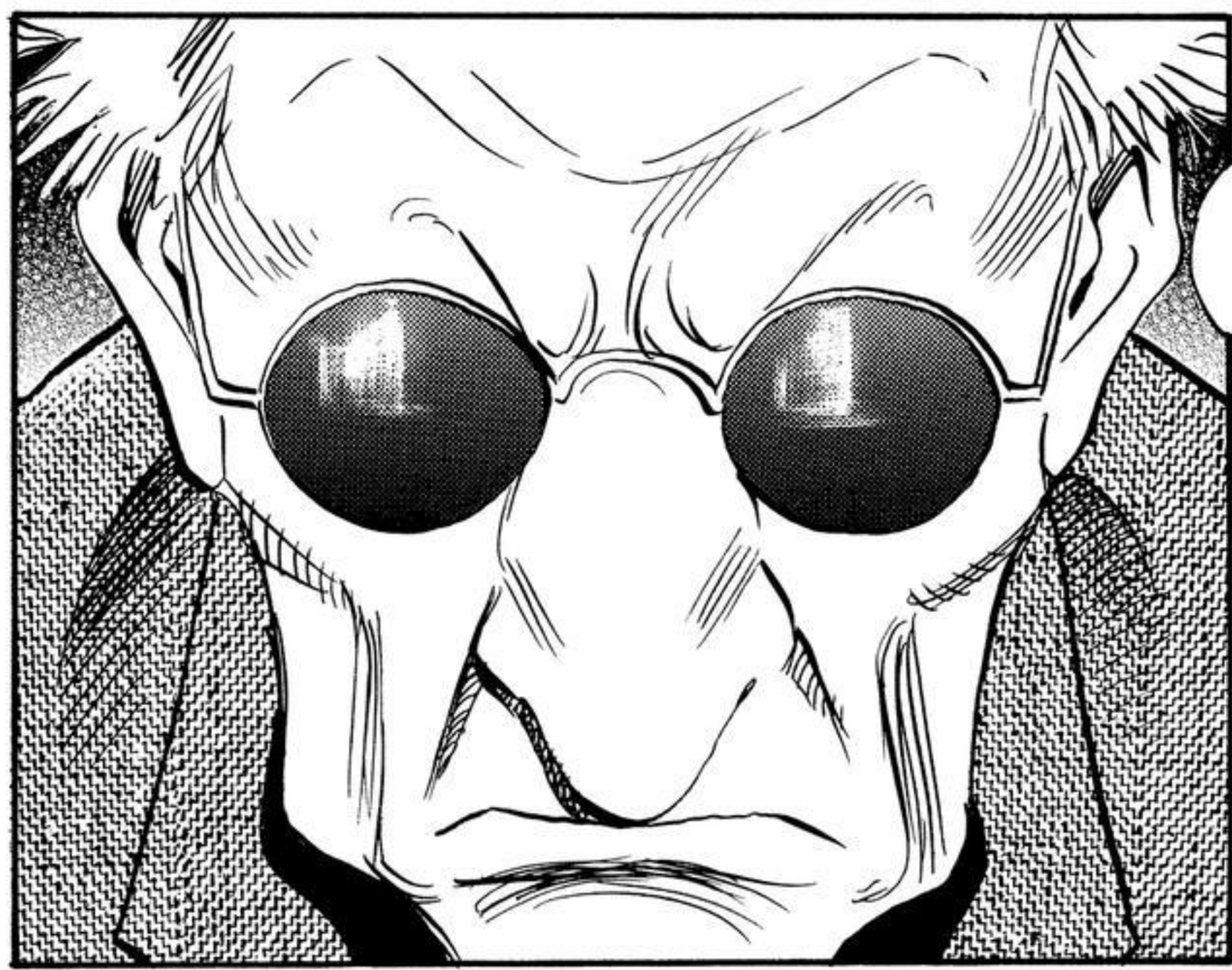
I TOLD YOU NEVER TO TOUCH MY PIANO!!

KLAK
KLAK

BAM!!

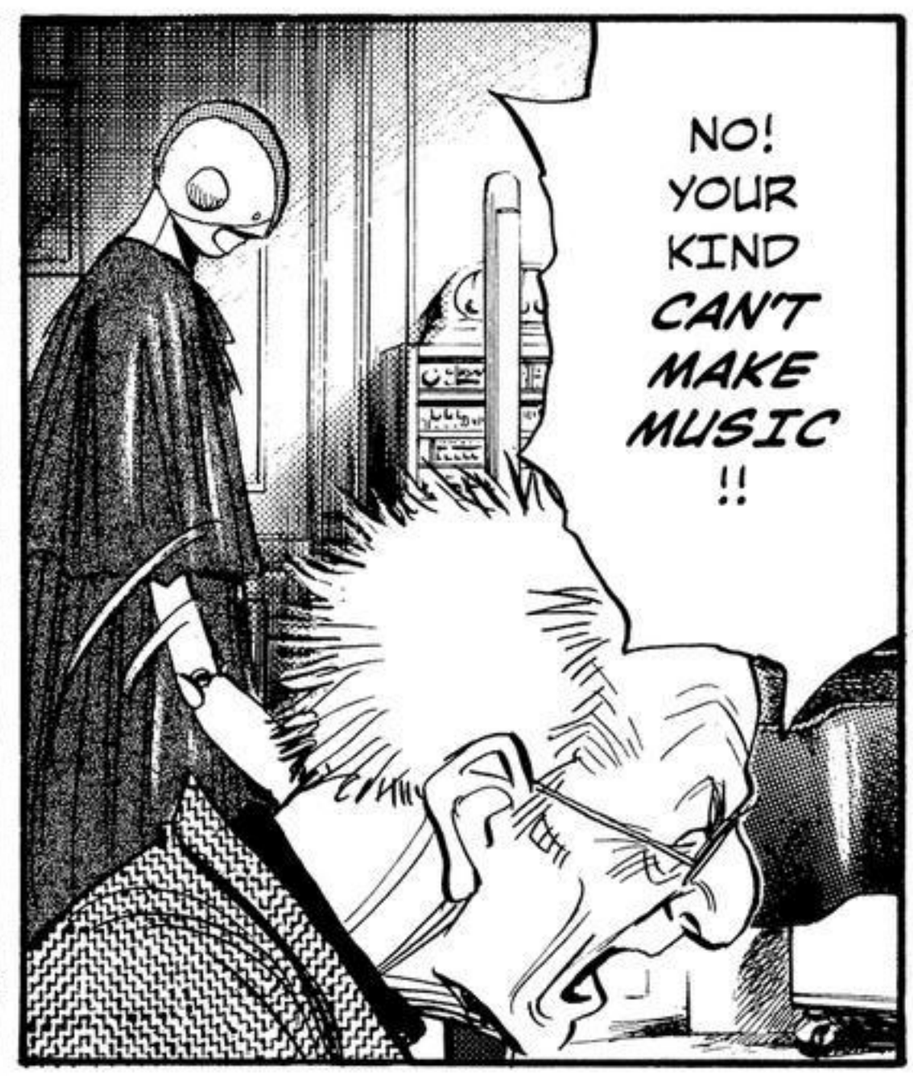

IMPROVED?!!
A ROBOT... IMPROVE? THAT JUST MEANS YOU CAN PLAY MORE *ACCURATELY*, THAT'S ALL!!

I THINK I'VE IMPROVED QUITE A BIT...
SIR, PLEASE LISTEN...

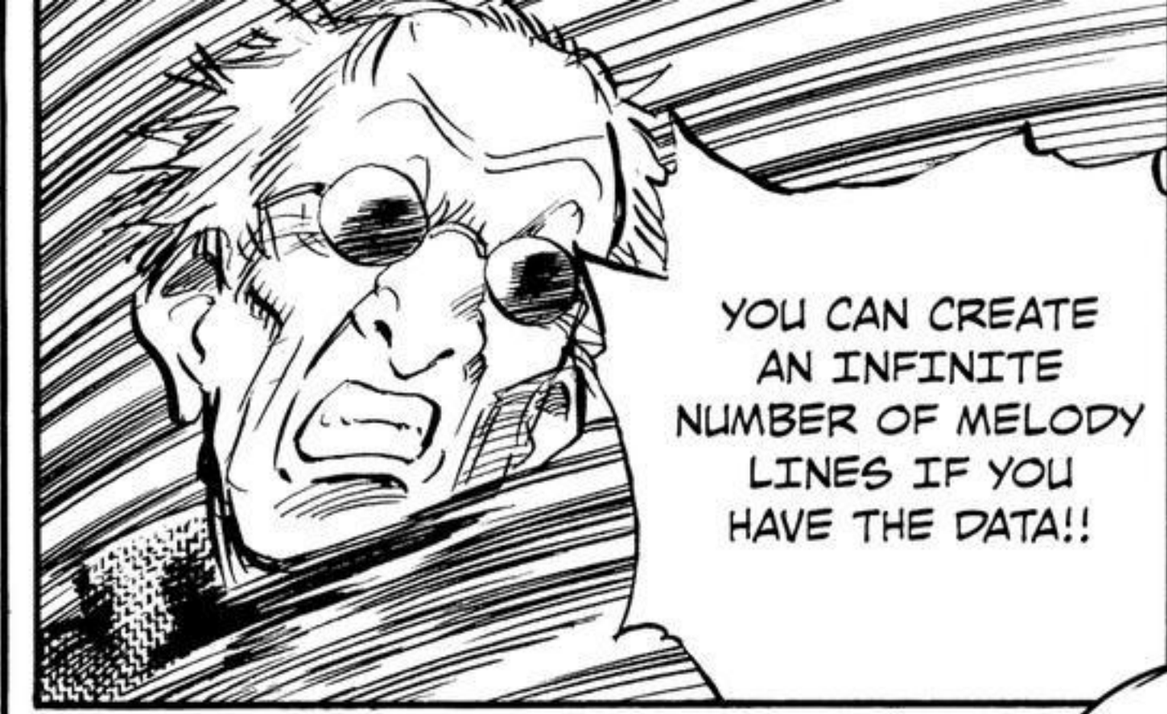

♪

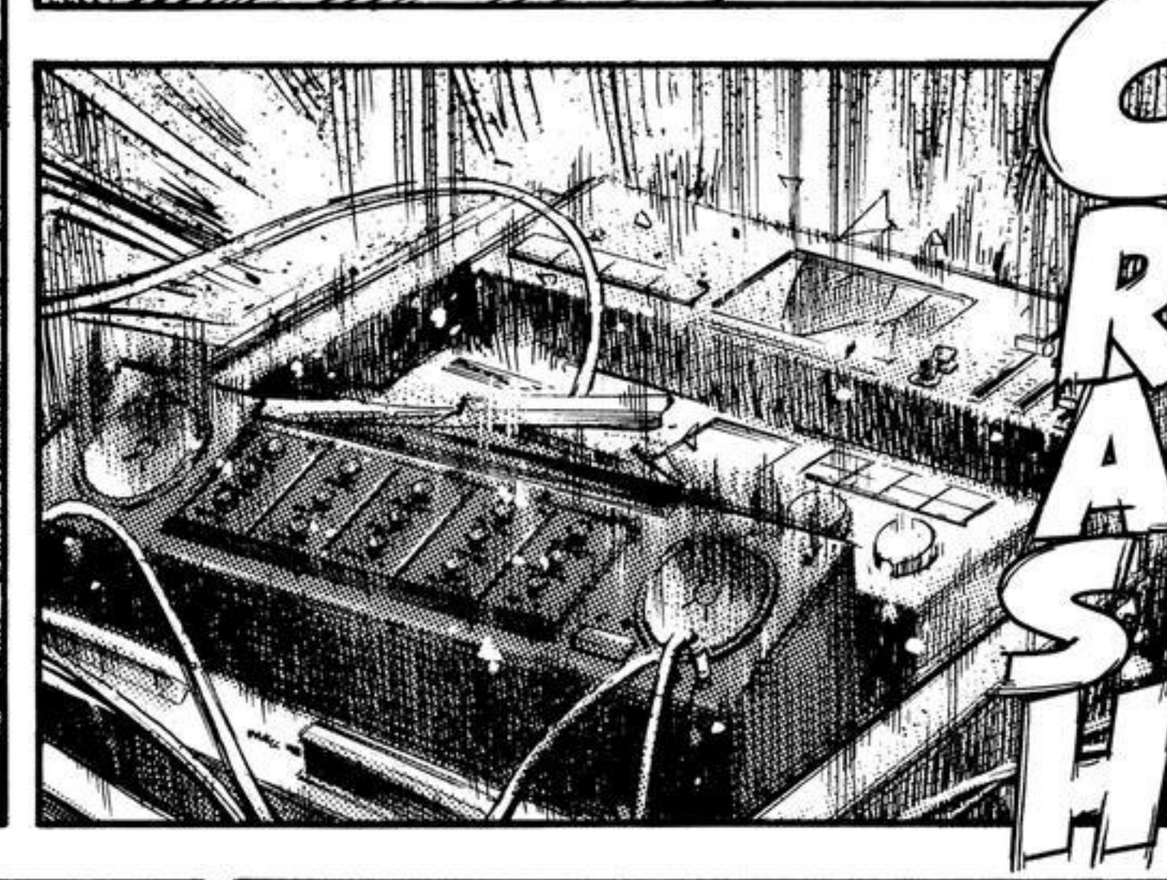
IT'S THE MELODY YOU WERE HUMMING IN YOUR SLEEP, SIR. LISTEN...

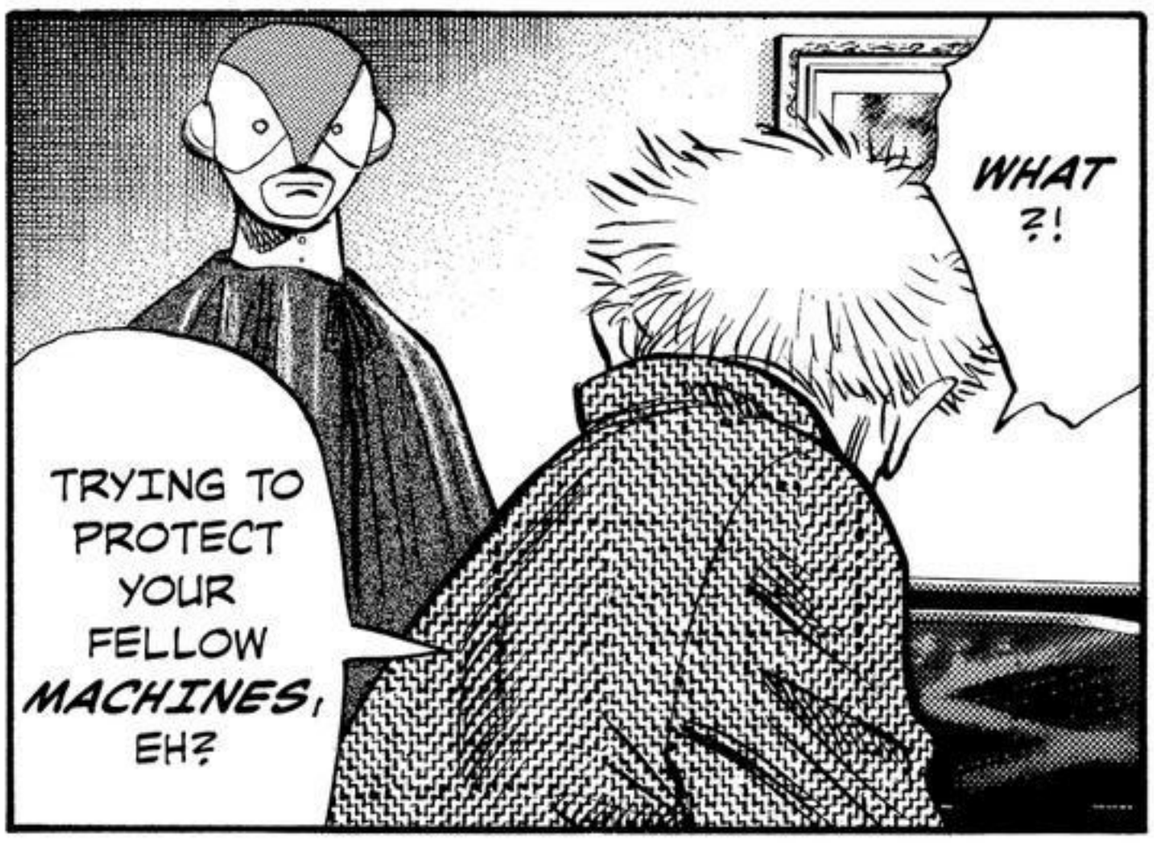
BASHAAM
THIS IS ALL JUNK!!

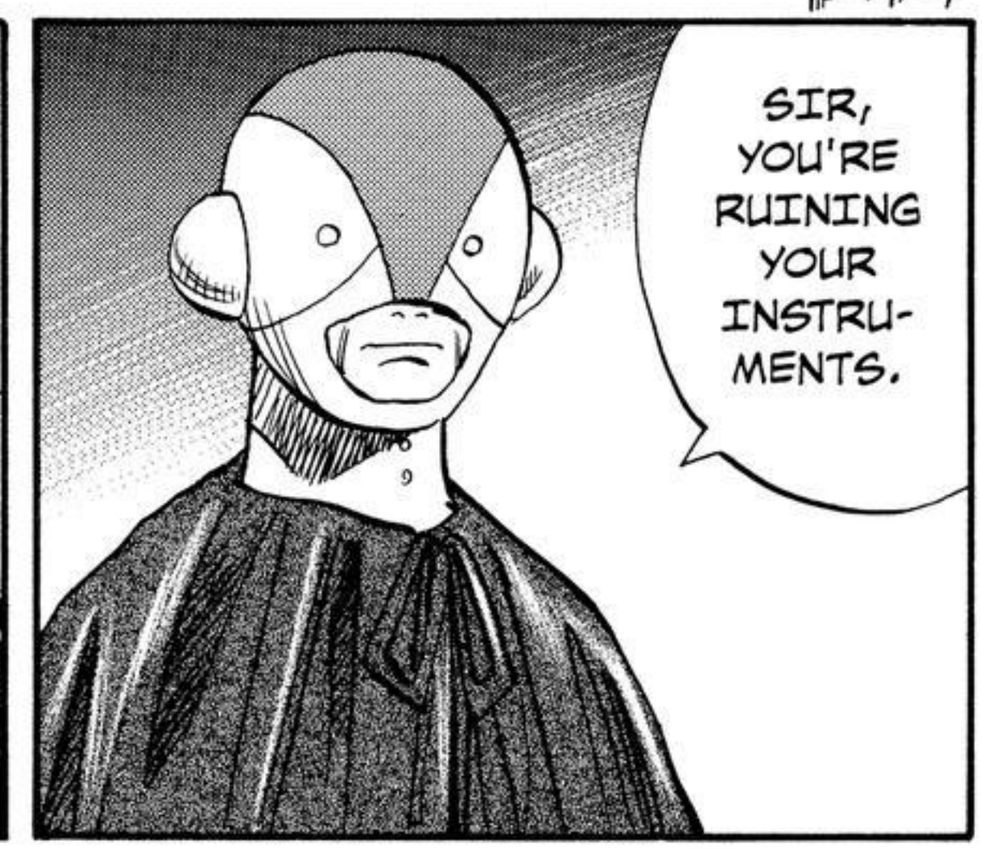

NO! YOUR KIND *CAN'T MAKE MUSIC* !!

WHACK
BUT THE RESULT'S *NOT MUSIC*!! IT'S *WORTH-LESS*!!


YOU CAN CREATE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF MELODY LINES IF YOU HAVE THE DATA!!

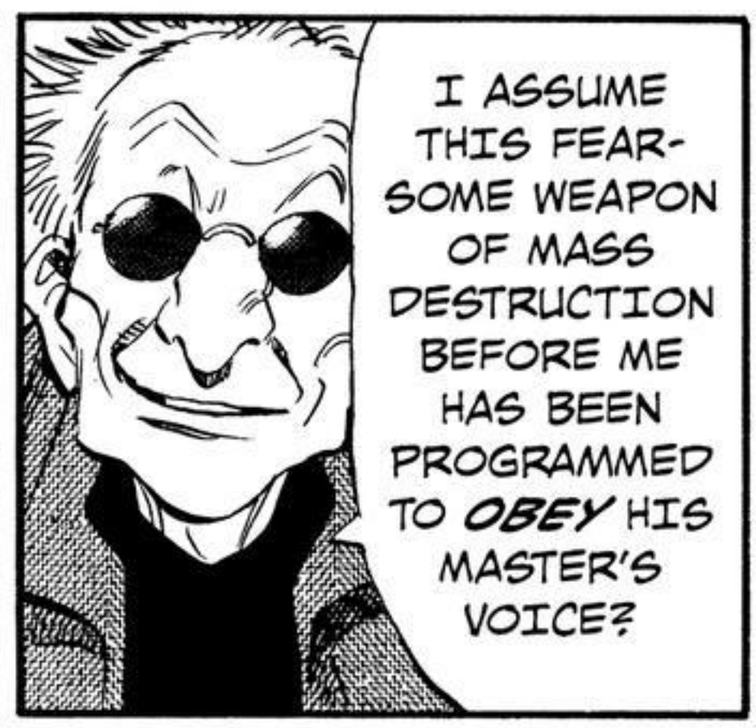

CRASH

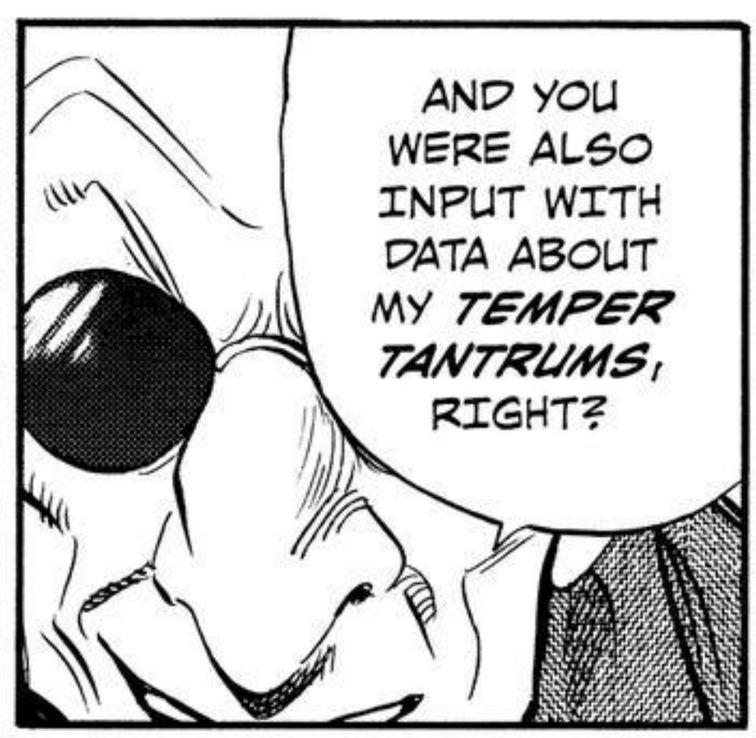

WHAT ?!
TRYING TO PROTECT YOUR FELLOW *MACHINES*, EH?

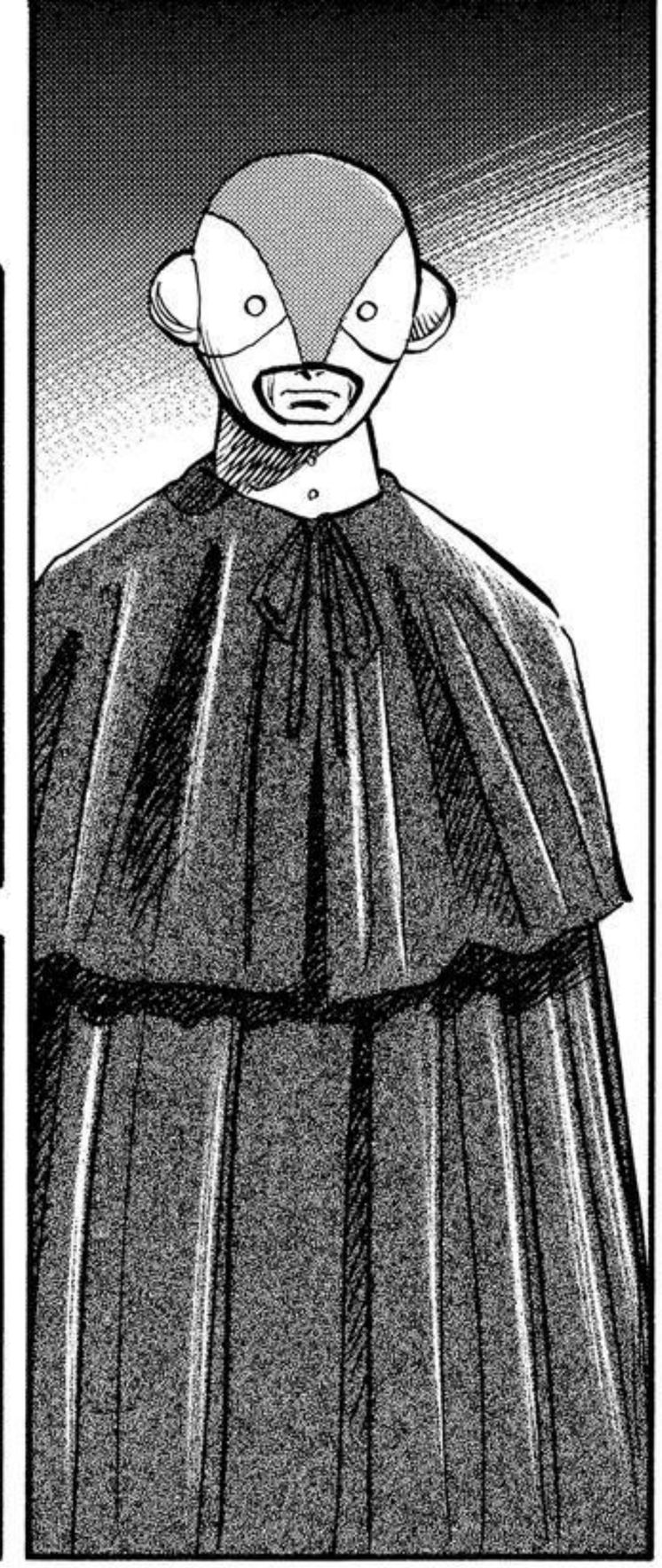

SIR, YOU'RE RUINING YOUR INSTRU-MENTS.

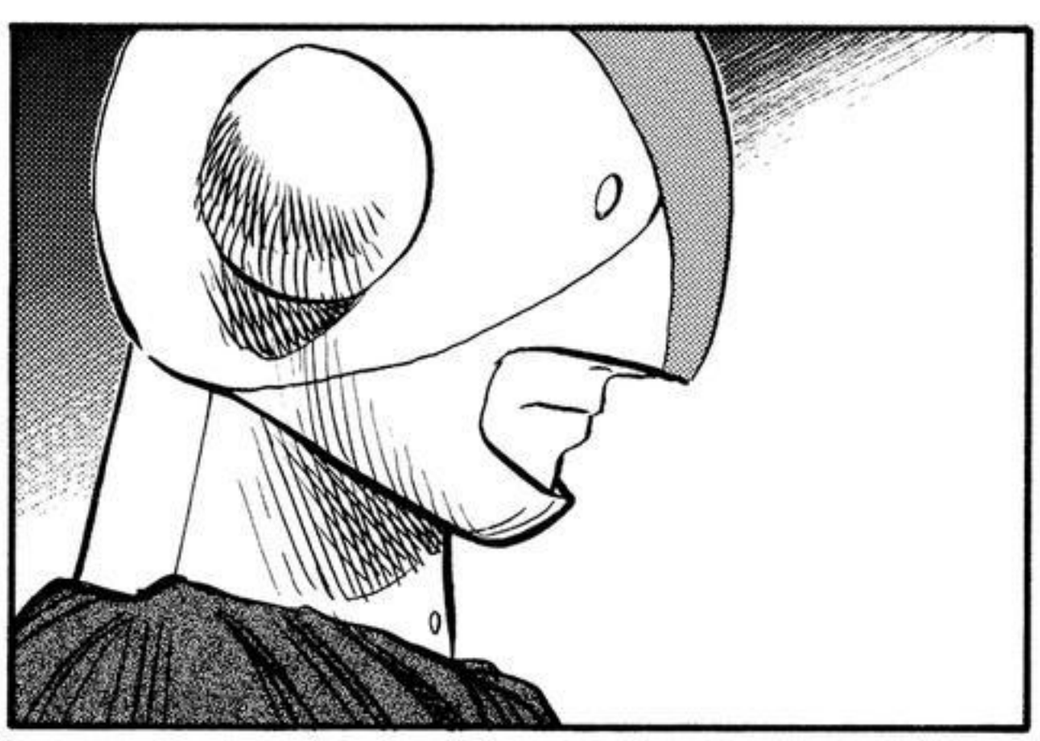
...HOW MANY DID YOU KILL WITH THAT LETHAL BODY OF YOURS, EH?!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THAT STUPID CAPE OFF AND SHOW WHAT A DISGUSTING *WEAPON* YOU REALLY ARE...

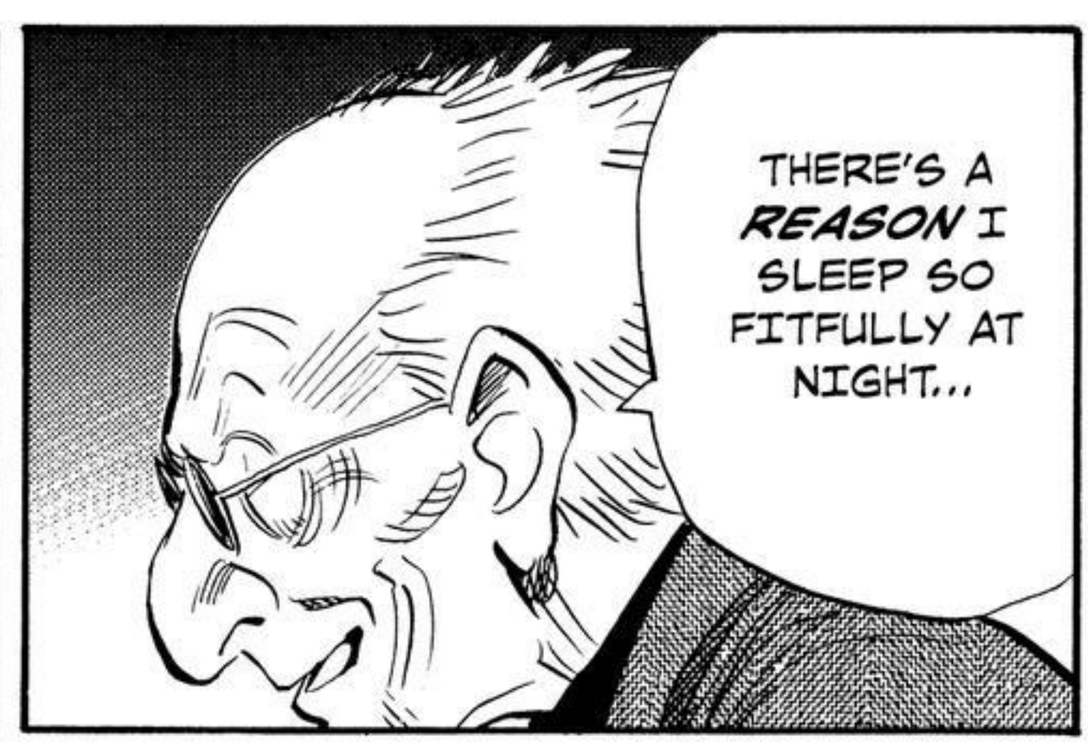
SO TELL ME, NORTH... HOW MANY OF YOUR PALS DID YOU DESTROY IN THE WAR?







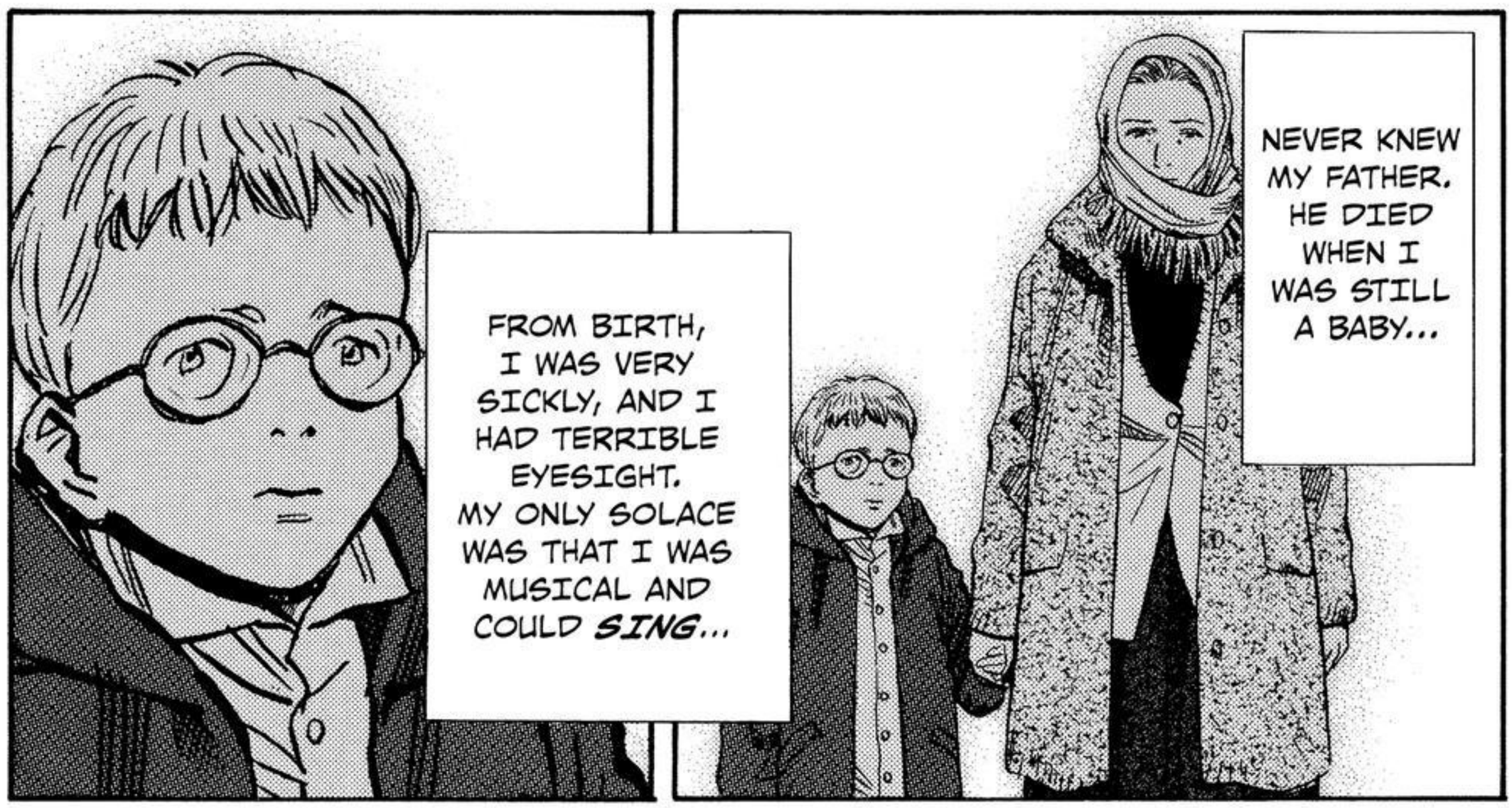


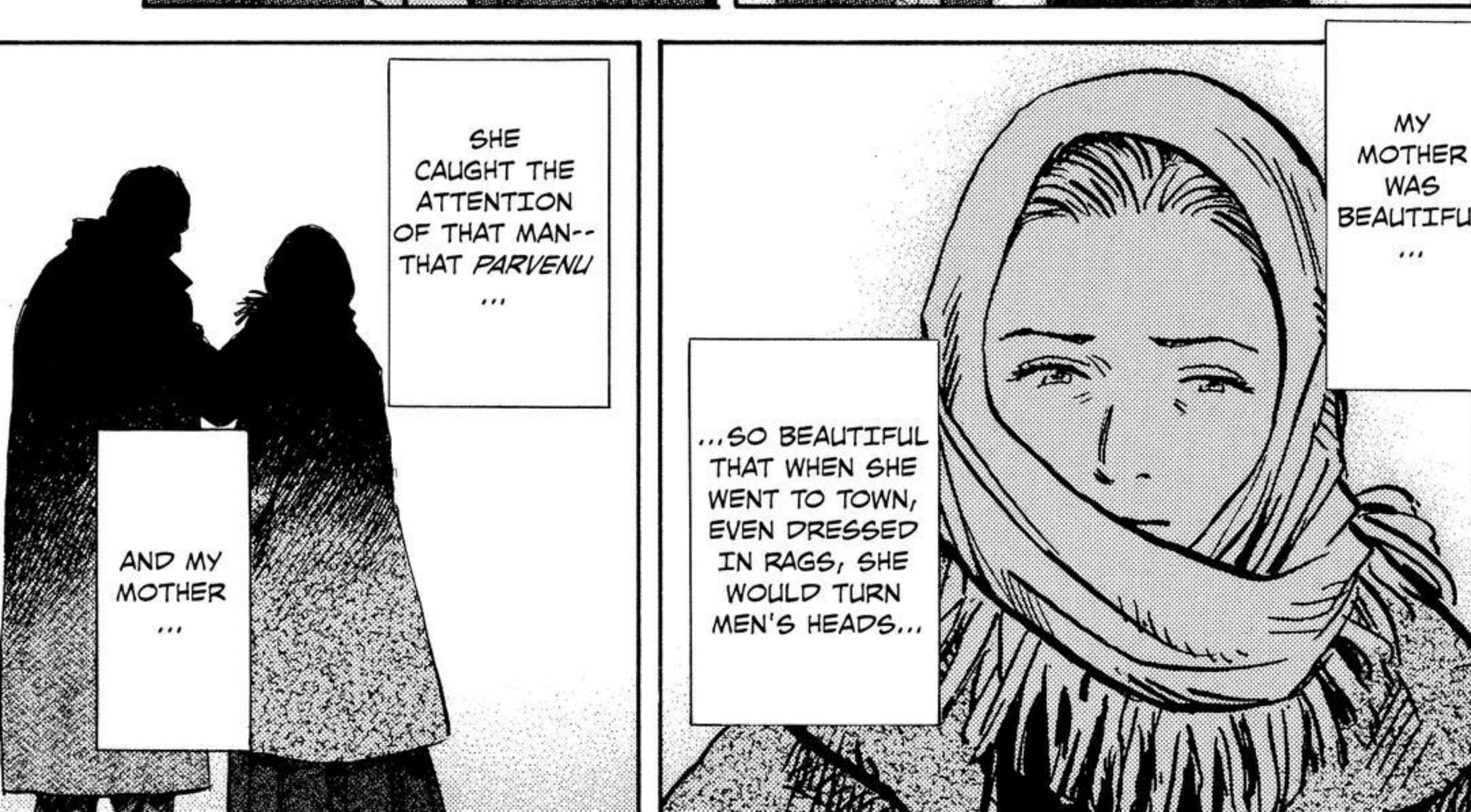


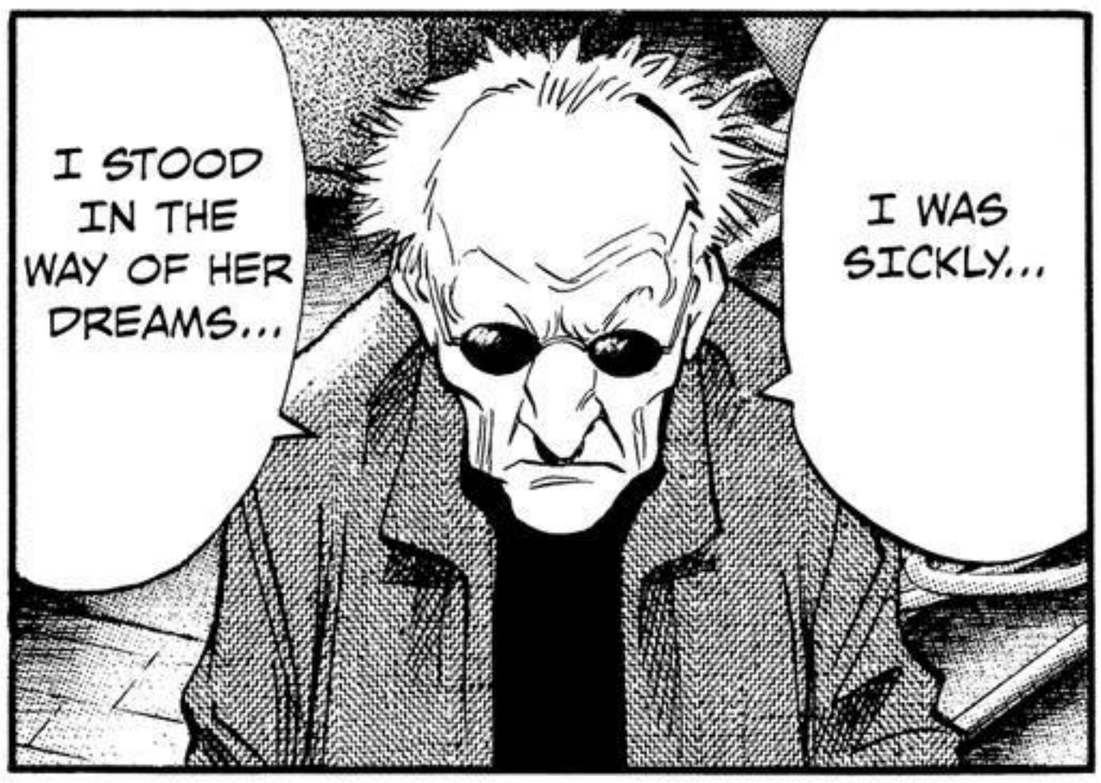
BUT IT'S NOT JUST A NIGHTMARE... IT REALLY *HAPPENED* TO ME!

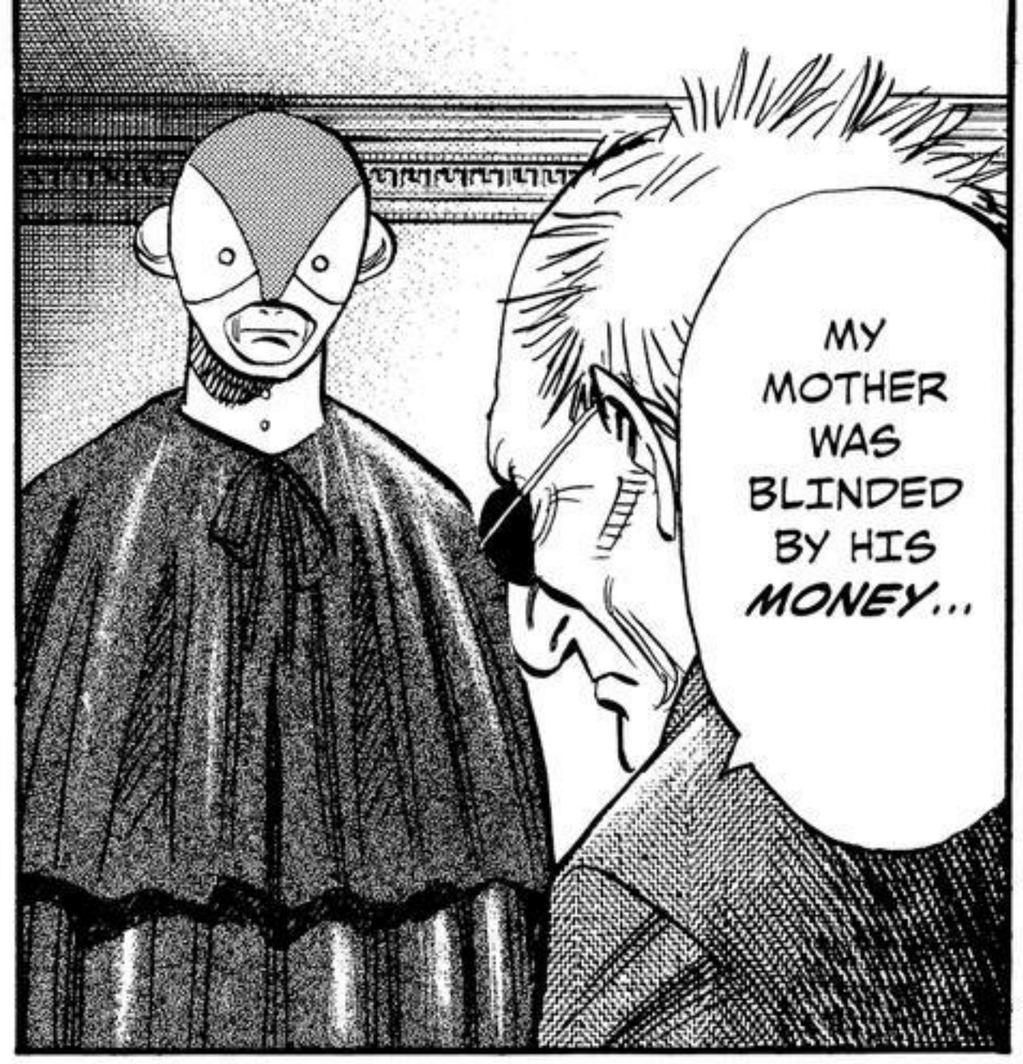
FOR YEARS, I'VE BEEN TORMENTED BY THE SAME *NIGHTMARE*...

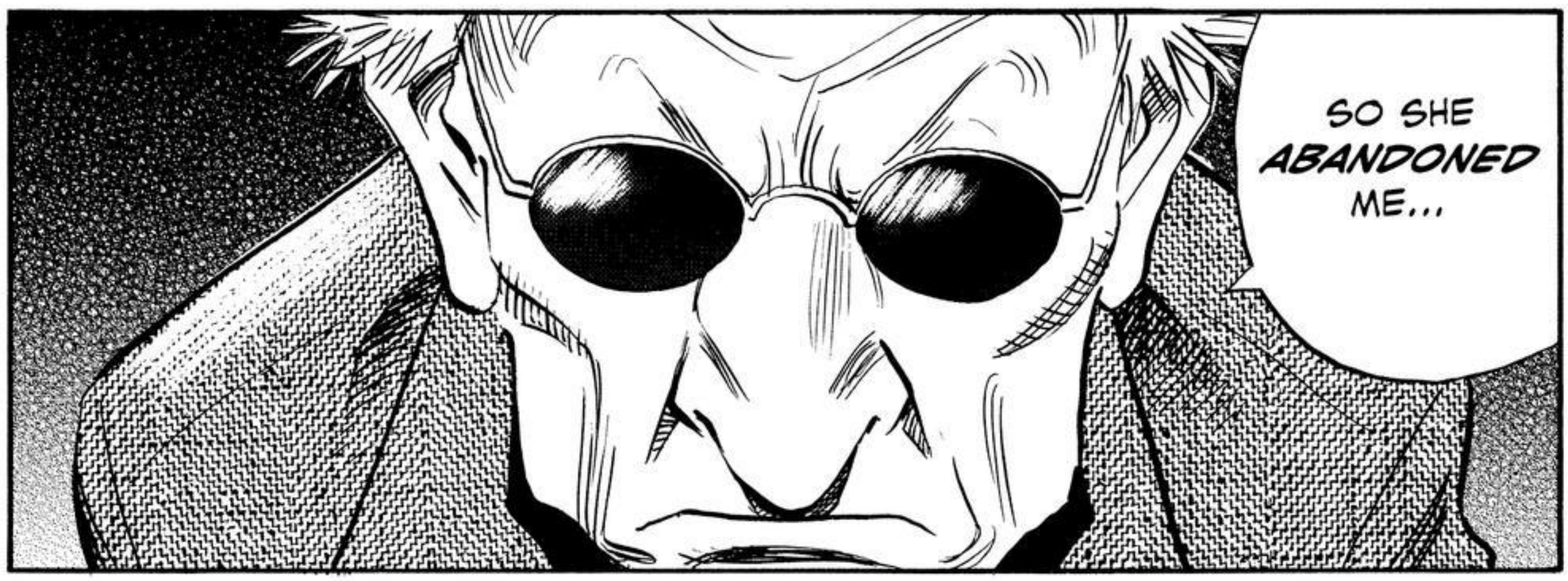
MY REAL NAME IS NOT PAUL DUNCAN, IT'S PAULO HOLY... I WAS BORN INTO A POOR FAMILY IN BOHEMIA...

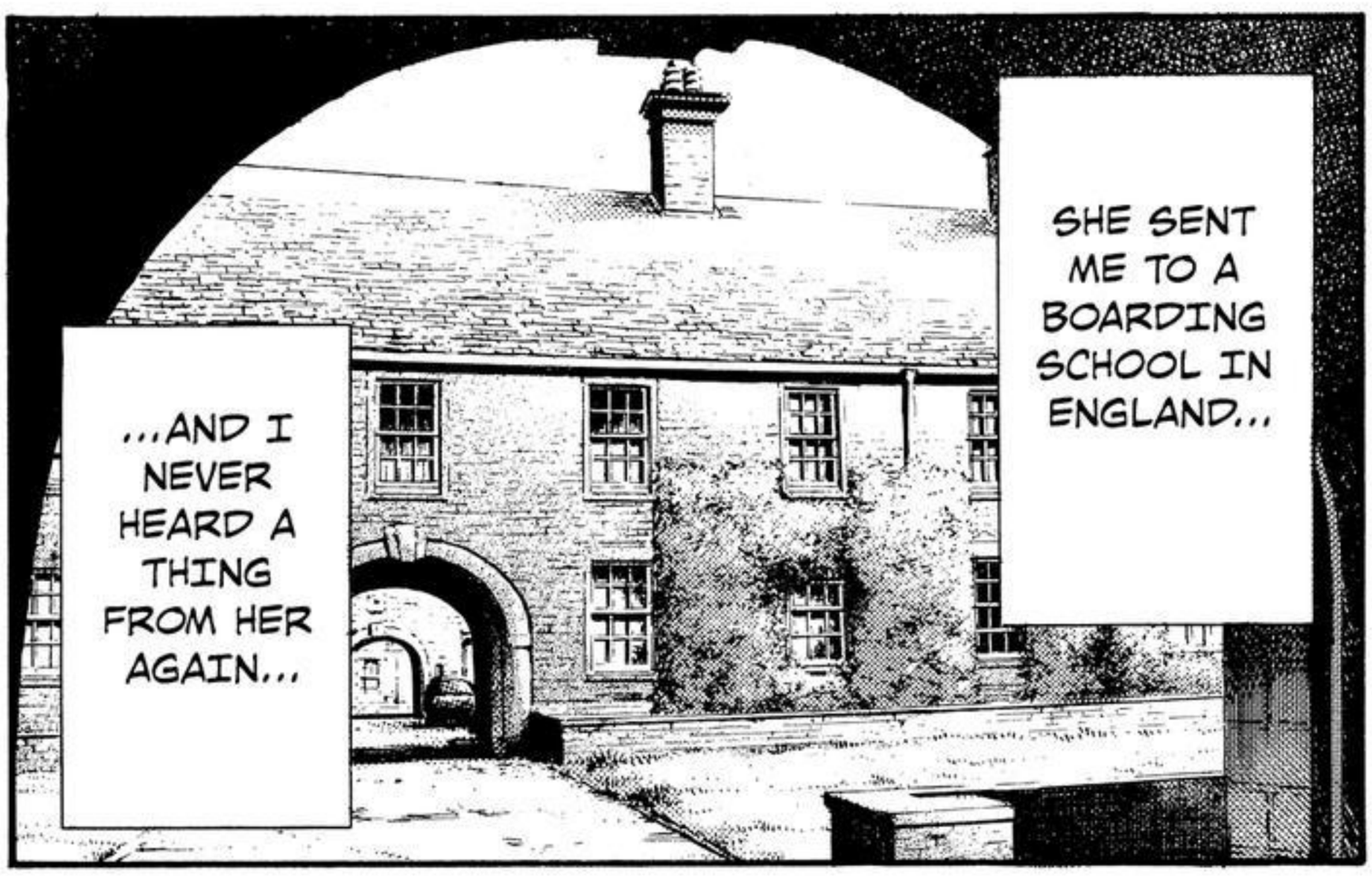





I STOOD IN THE WAY OF HER DREAMS...
I WAS SICKLY...

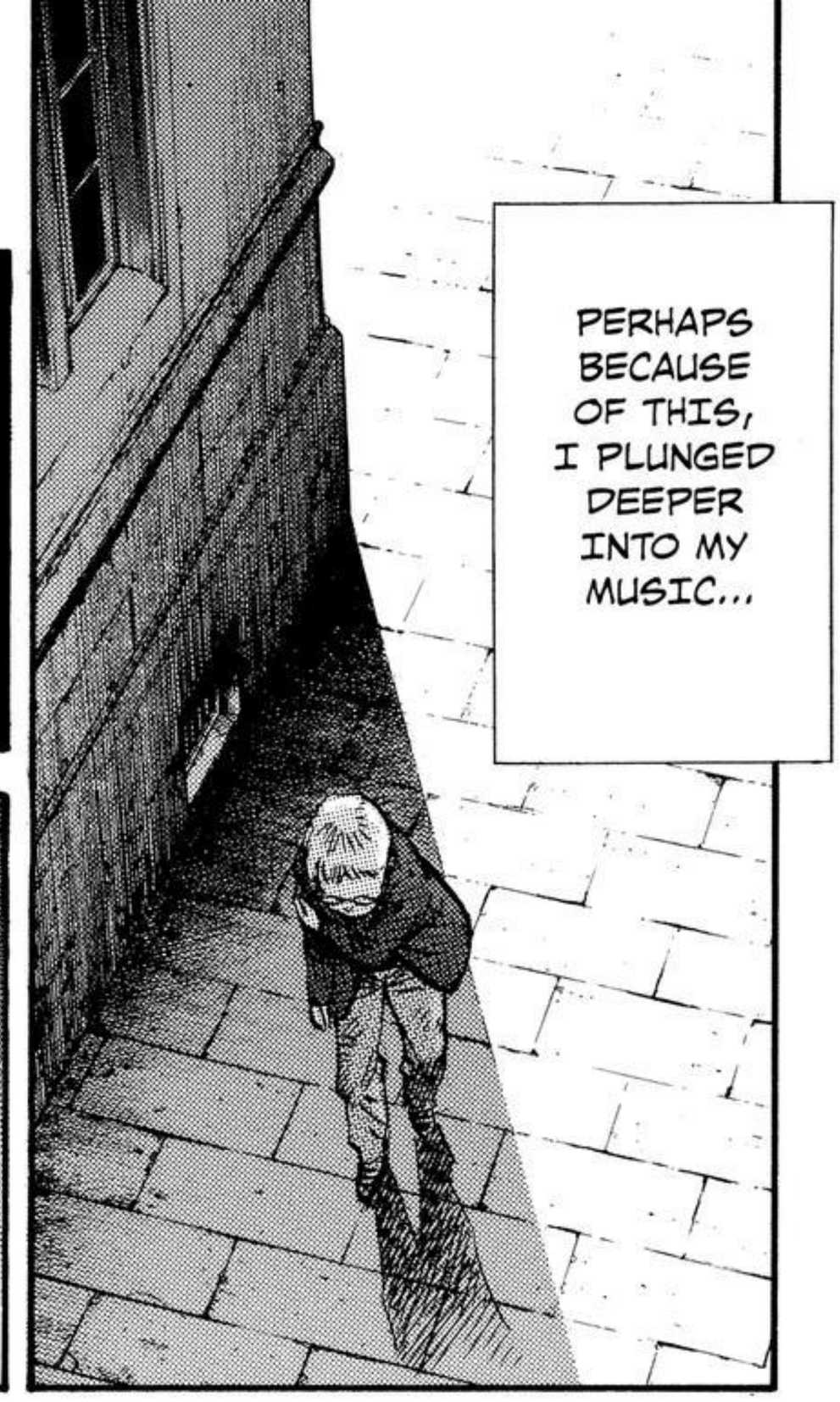

MY MOTHER WAS BLINDED BY HIS *MONEY*...


SO SHE *ABANDONED* ME...


...AND I NEVER HEARD A THING FROM HER AGAIN...
SHE SENT ME TO A BOARDING SCHOOL IN ENGLAND...

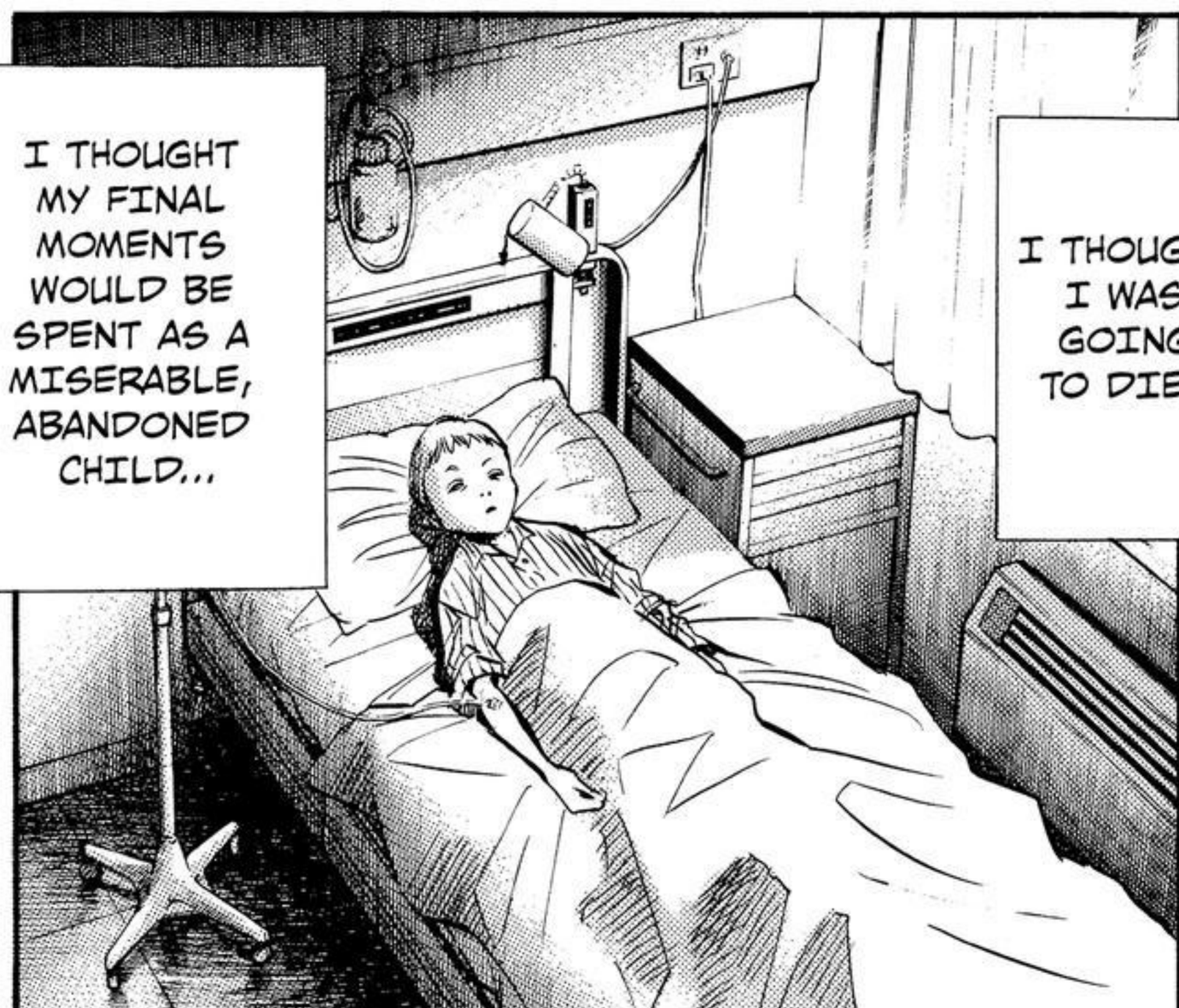
I WAS A WEAKLING, AND THE OTHER STUDENTS LOVED TO *BULLY* ME...

THEN ONE DAY, I DEVELOPED A HIGH FEVER...

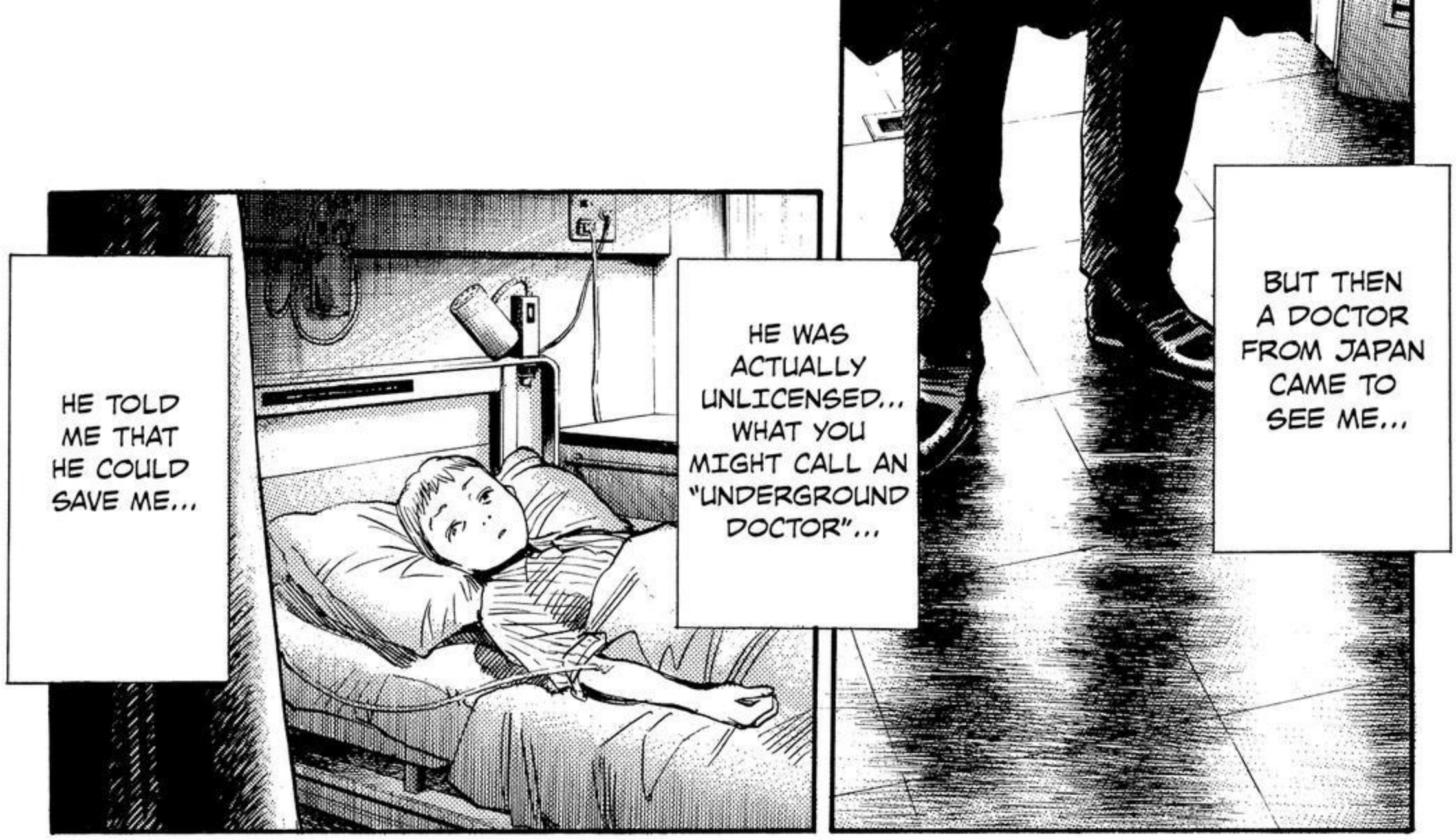

PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS, I PLUNGED DEEPER INTO MY MUSIC...

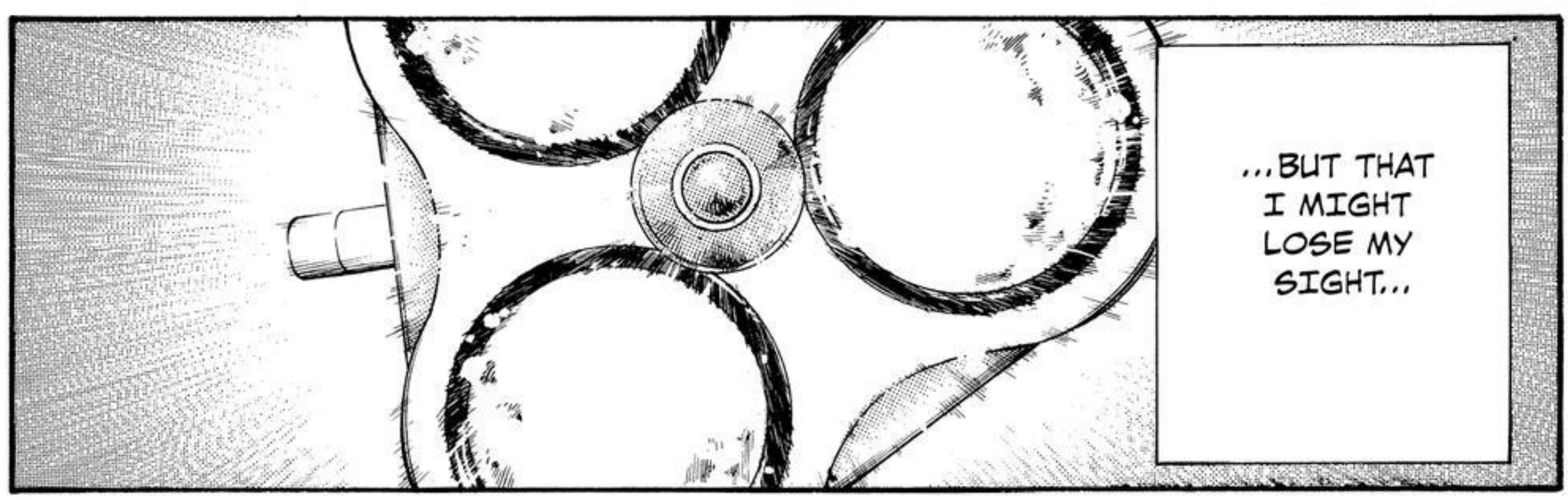
...AND IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T GO DOWN...

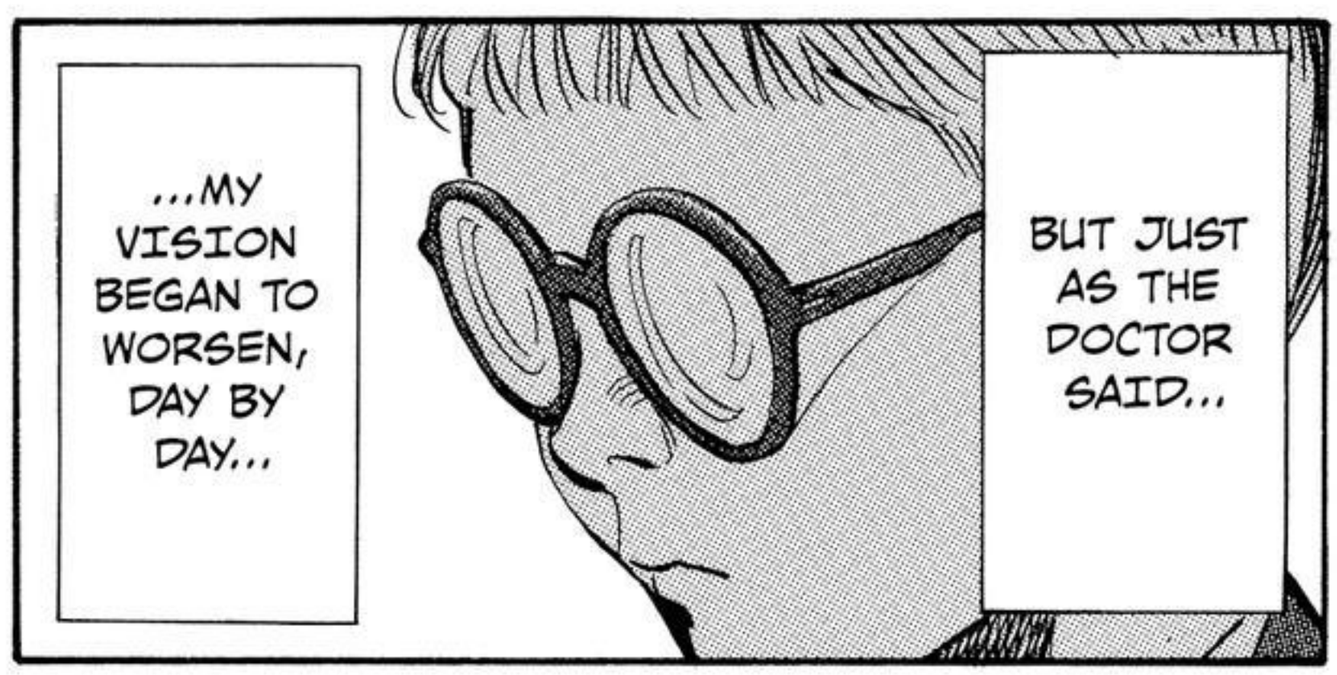
I WAS SENT TO A VARIETY OF HOSPITALS, BUT I CONTINUED TO GET WORSE...


I THOUGHT MY FINAL MOMENTS WOULD BE SPENT AS A MISERABLE, ABANDONED CHILD...
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE...

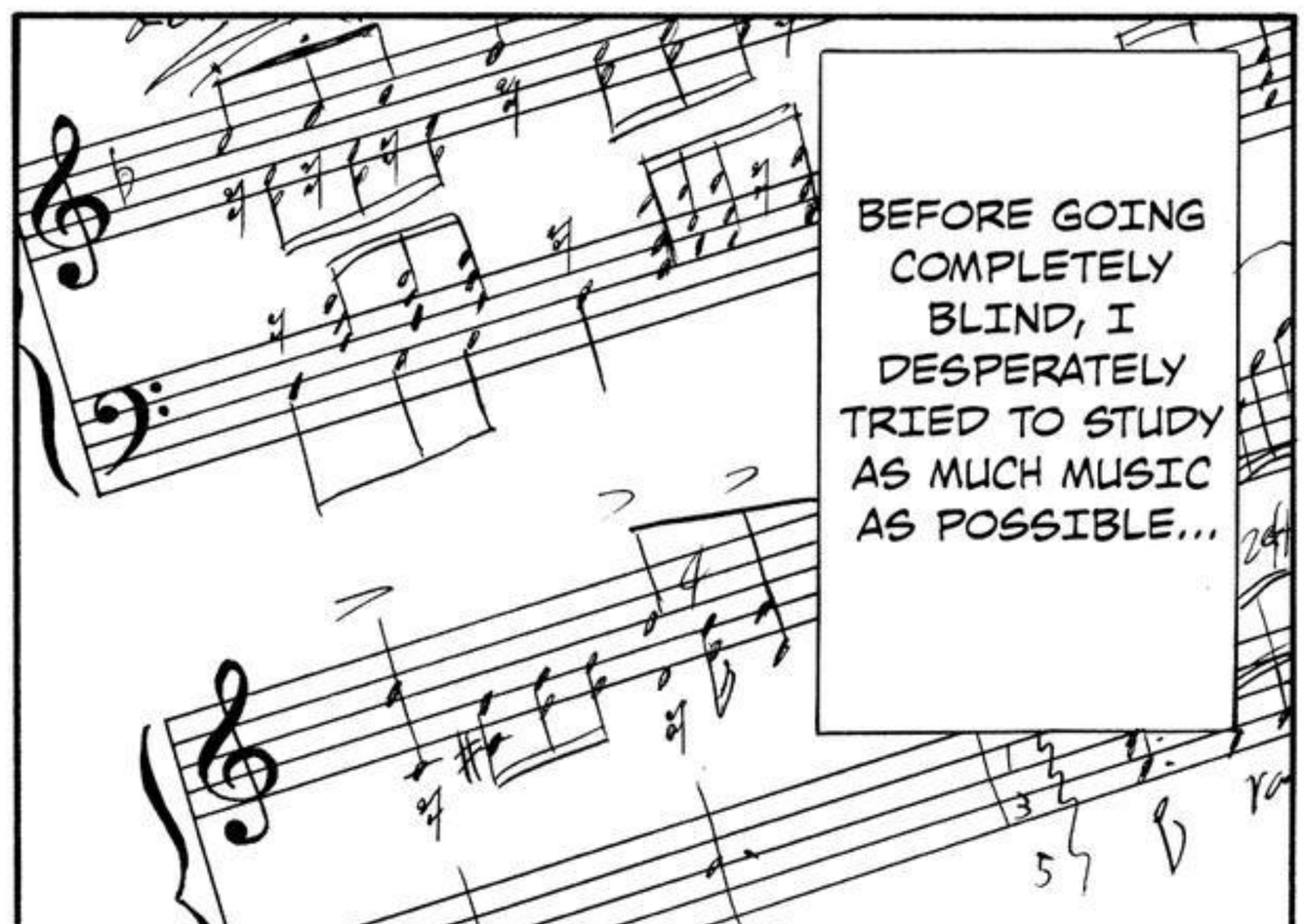
THE DOCTORS GAVE UP ON ME...


HE TOLD ME THAT HE COULD SAVE ME...
HE WAS ACTUALLY UNLICENSED... WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL AN "UNDERGROUND DOCTOR"...
BUT THEN A DOCTOR FROM JAPAN CAME TO SEE ME...


...BUT THAT I MIGHT LOSE MY SIGHT...

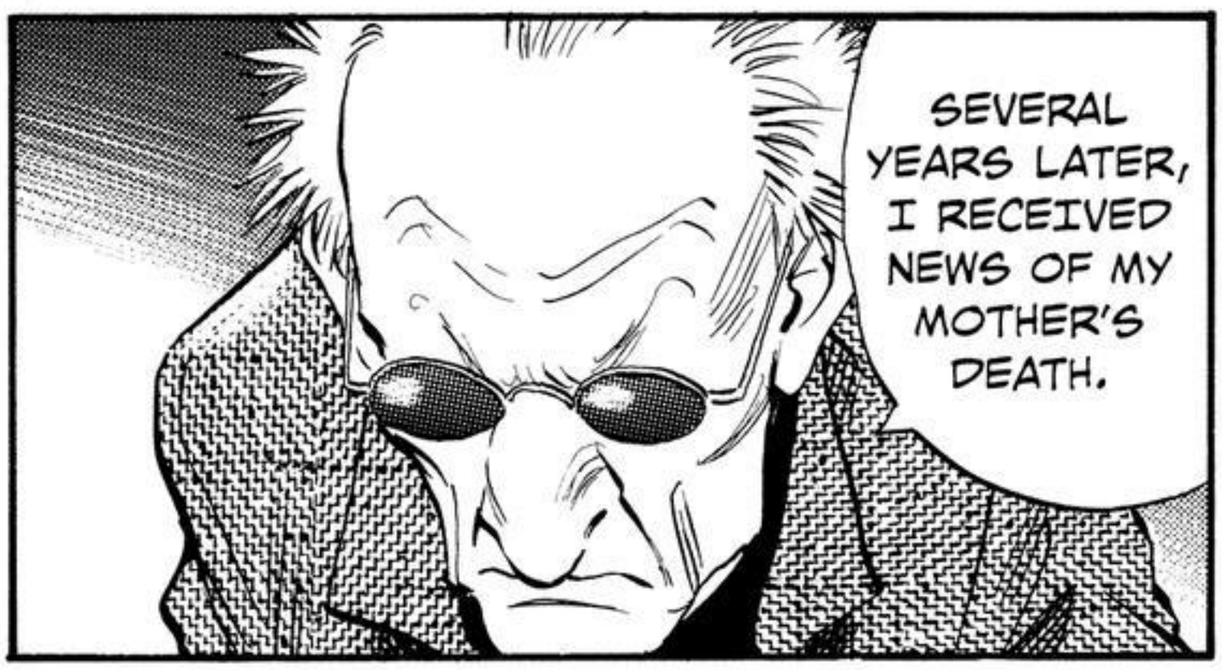

...MY VISION BEGAN TO WORSEN, DAY BY DAY...
BUT JUST AS THE DOCTOR SAID...

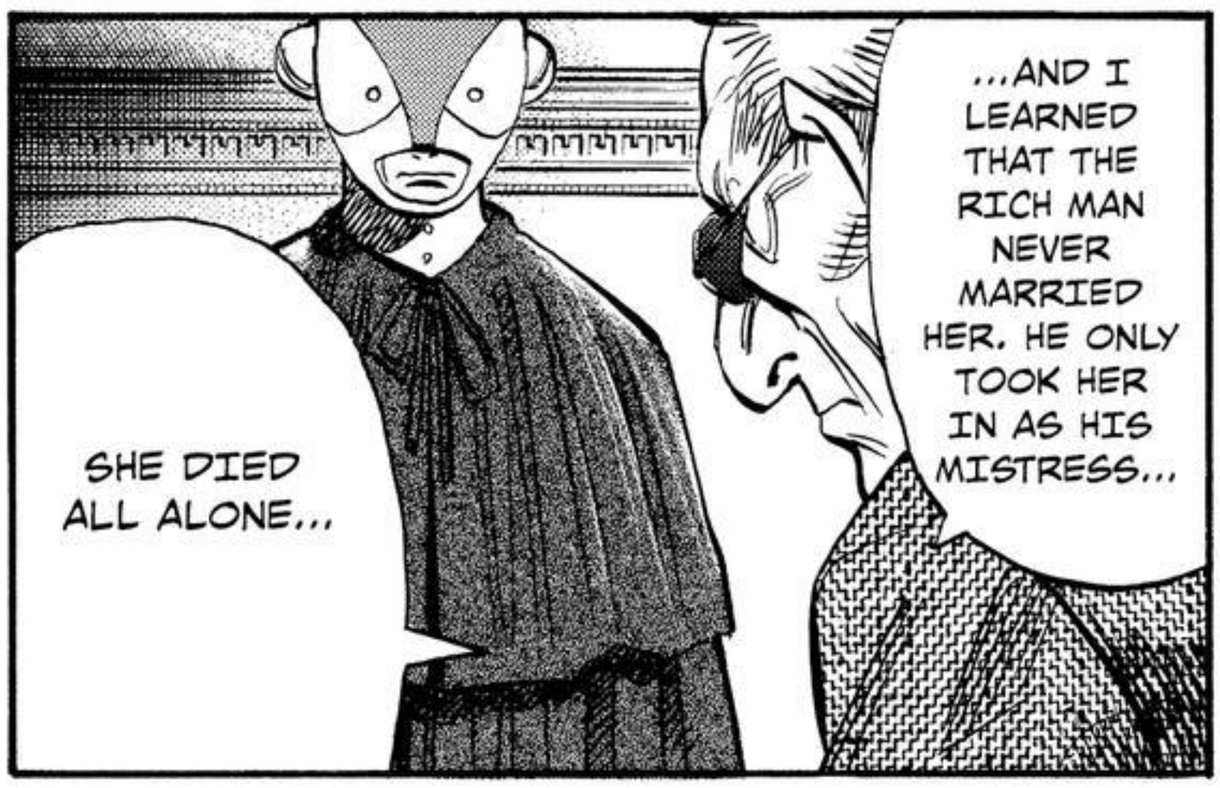
HE OPER-ATED ON ME...
... AND IT WAS A SUCCESS ...

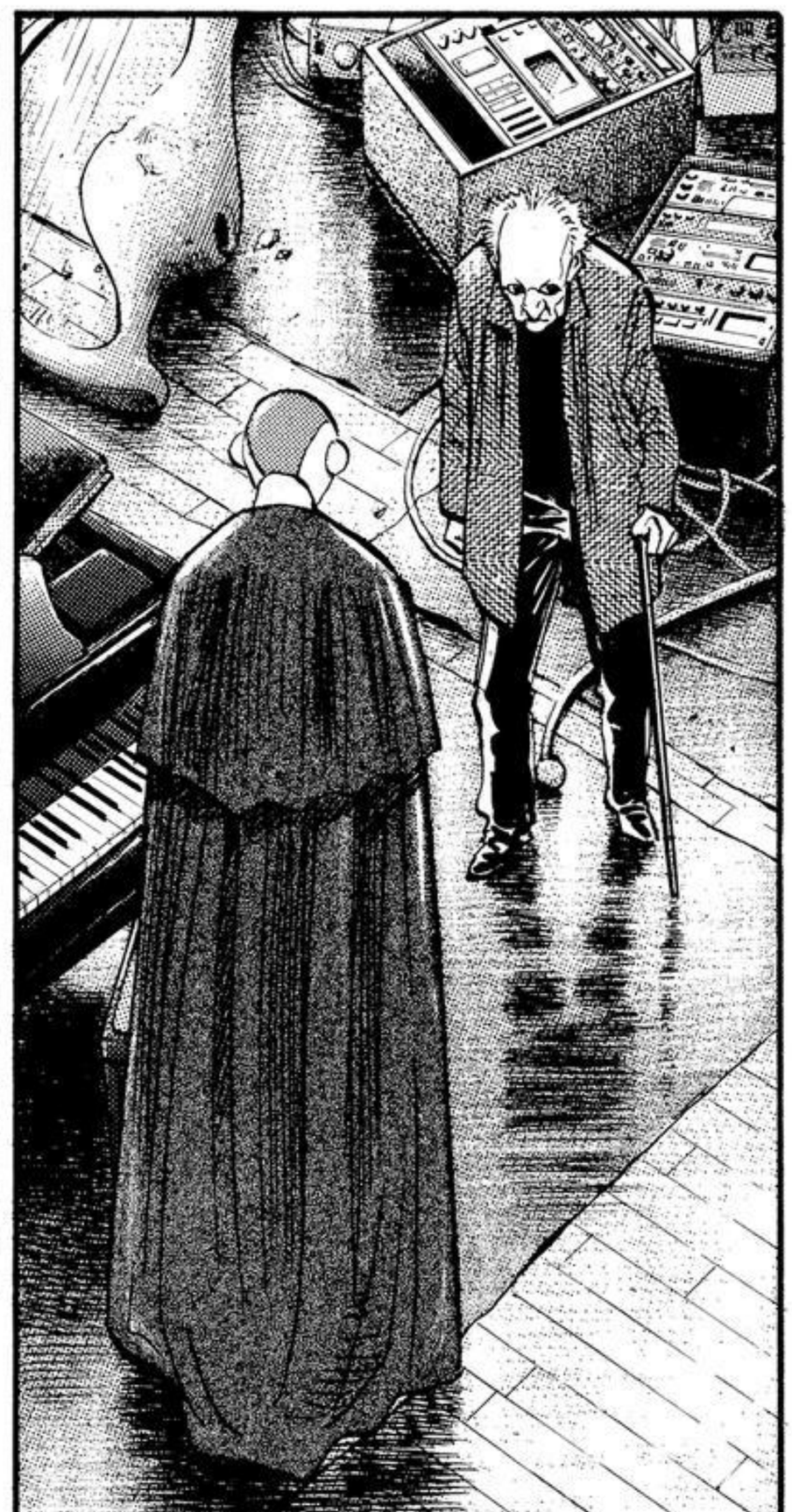

BEFORE GOING COMPLETELY BLIND, I DESPERATELY TRIED TO STUDY AS MUCH MUSIC AS POSSIBLE...

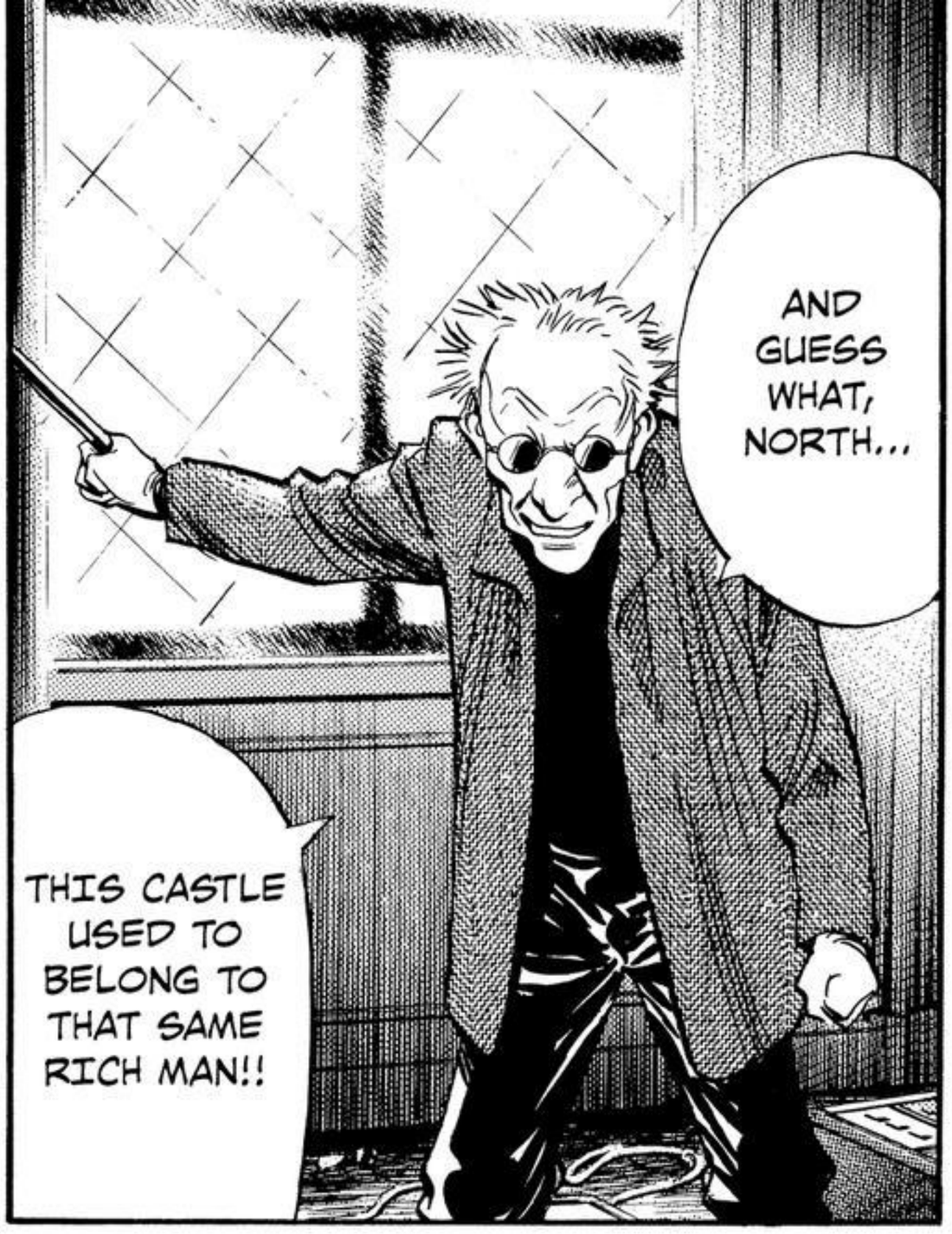
ALL I HAD WAS *MUSIC*!! I COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT!

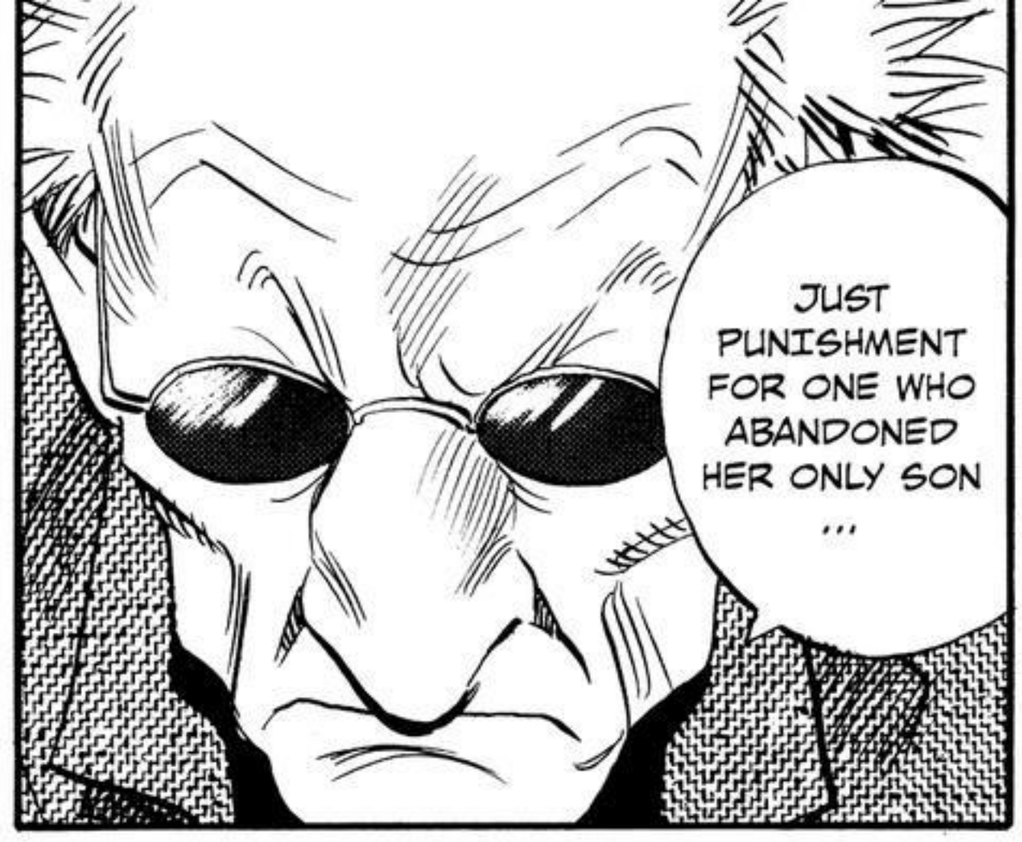
EVENTUALLY THE DARKNESS CLOSED IN ON ME...





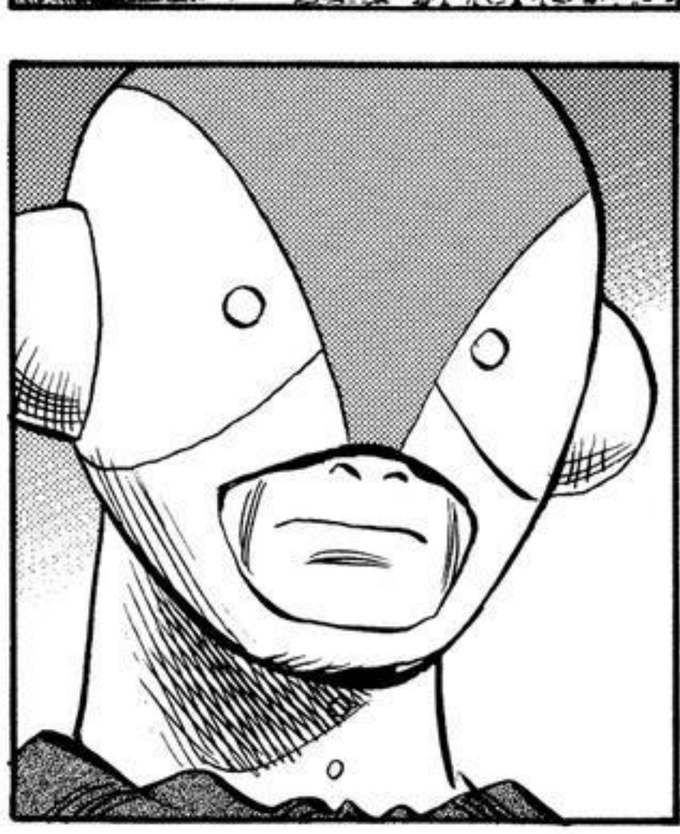



AND GUESS WHAT, NORTH...
THIS CASTLE USED TO BELONG TO THAT SAME RICH MAN!!

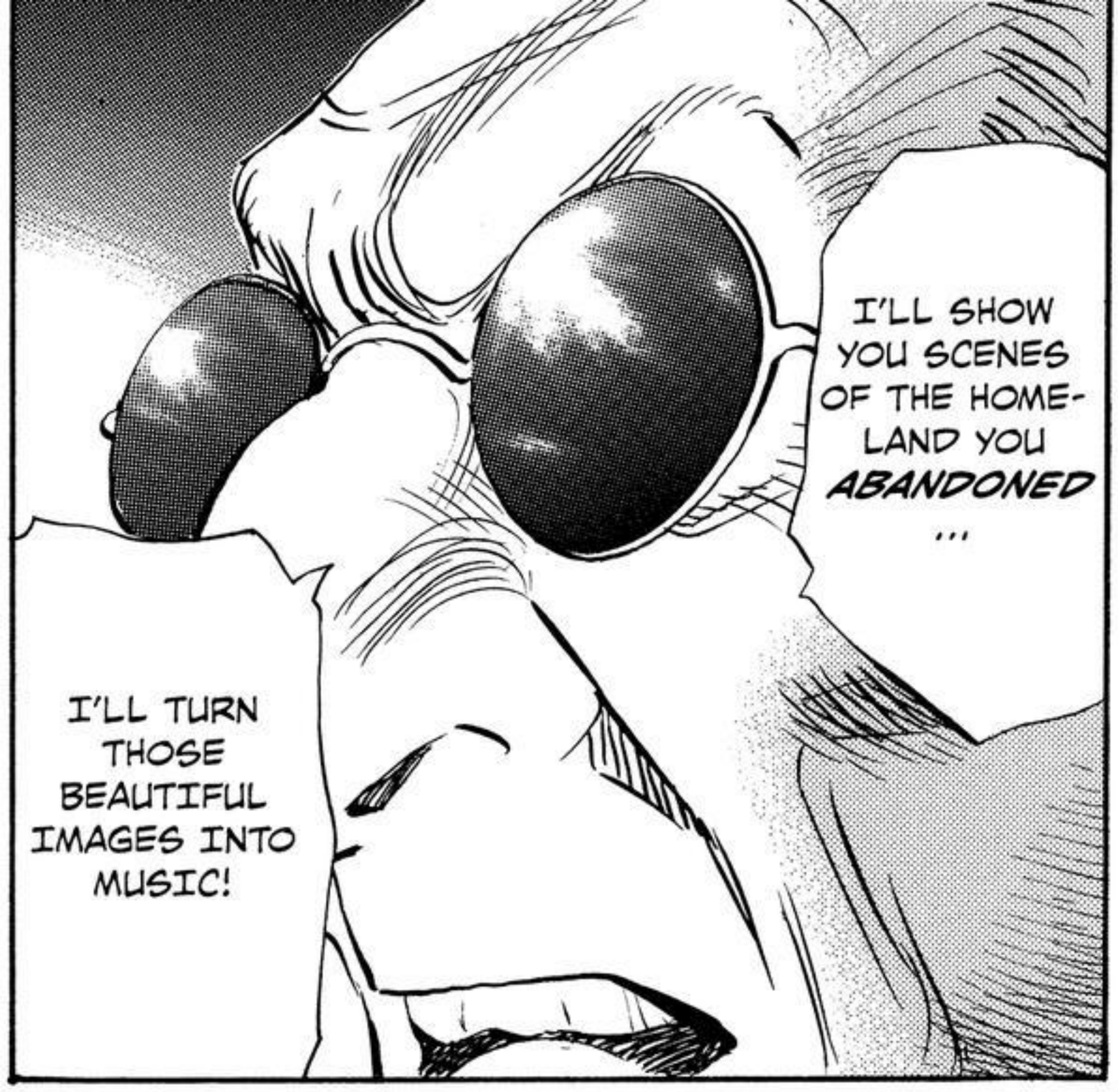

JUST PUNISHMENT FOR ONE WHO ABANDONED HER ONLY SON ...

THIS, DEAR MOTHER, IS WHAT YOU ALWAYS *WANTED*!!

...MANAGED TO *BUY* IT!!
I, *PAUL DUNCAN*-- GENIUS AND MAESTRO OF THE MUSIC WORLD...



FOR THIS, YOU WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR *ONLY CHILD*!!

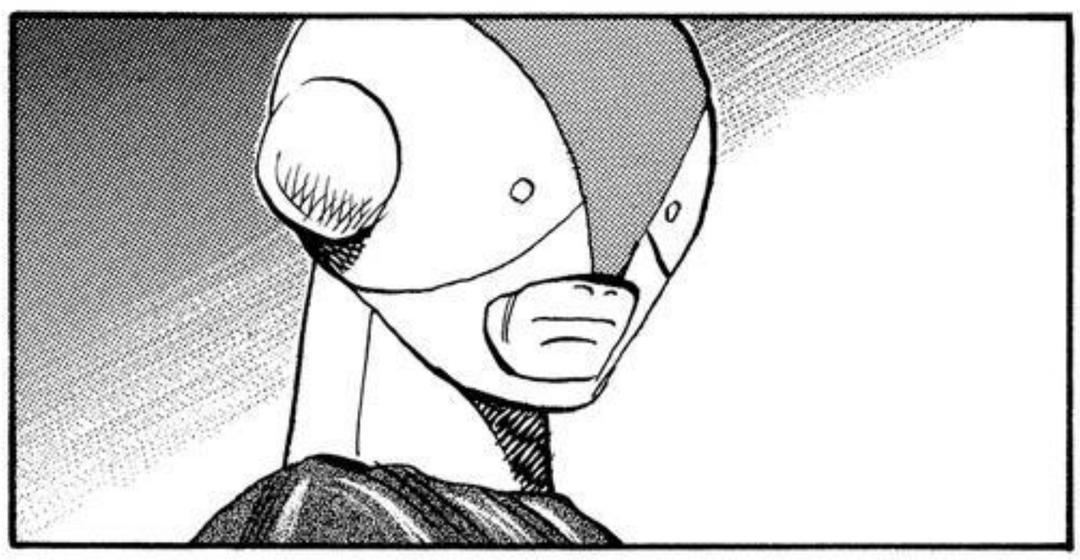

I'LL SHOW YOU SCENES OF THE HOME-LAND YOU ABANDONED ...
I'LL TURN THOSE BEAUTIFUL IMAGES INTO MUSIC!

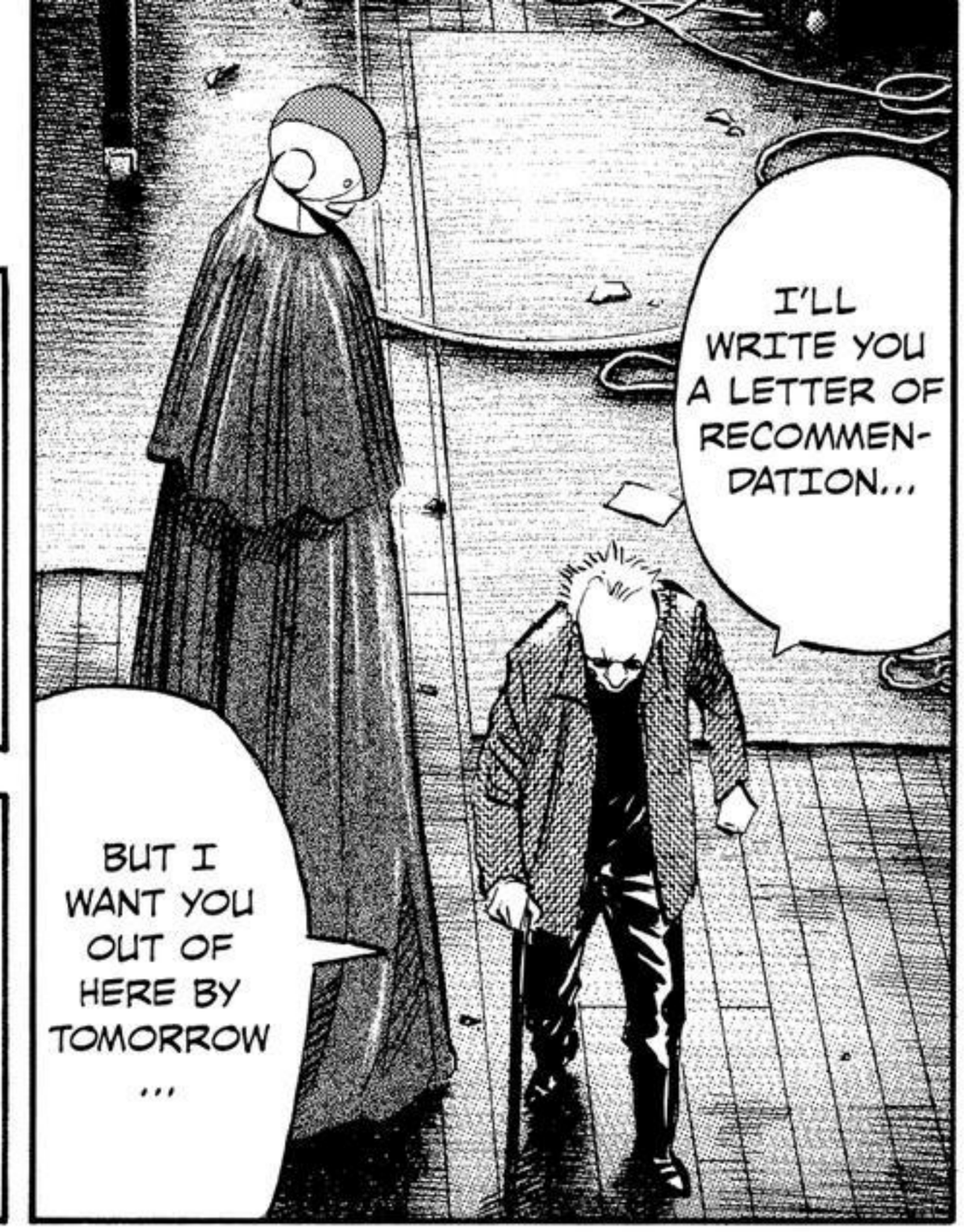
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IN LIFE, MOTHER!

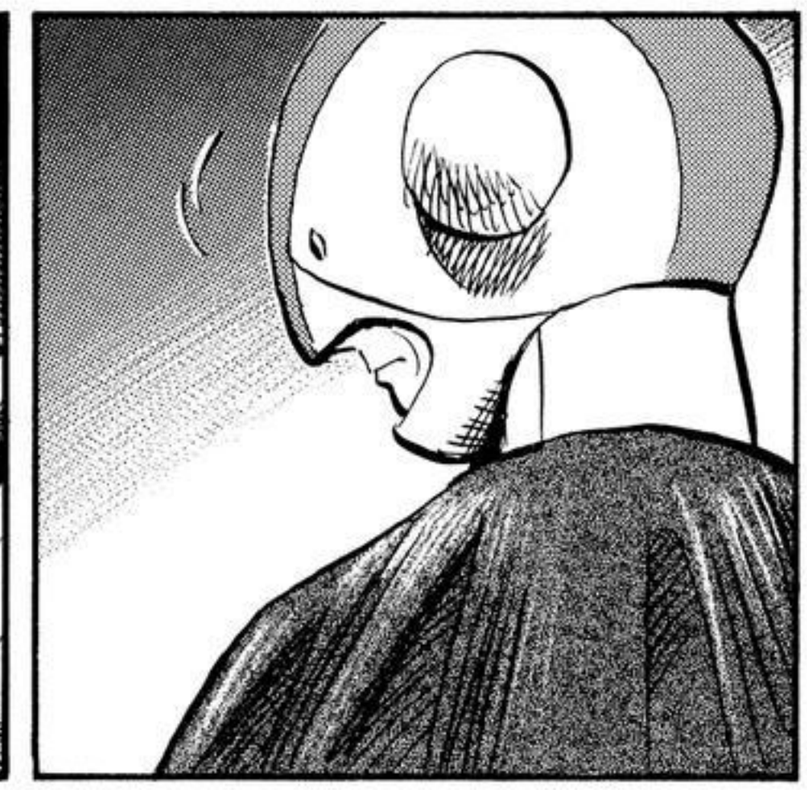
AND I'LL SHOW YOU THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS ONE SHOULD NEVER TURN ONE'S BACK ON!

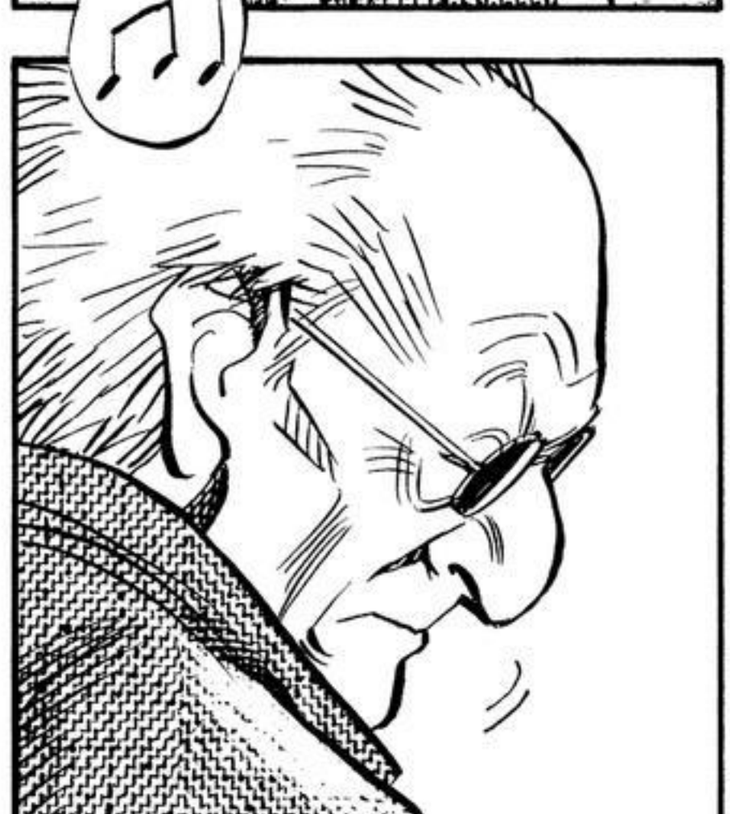
YOUR MOTHER WAS...
SIR...

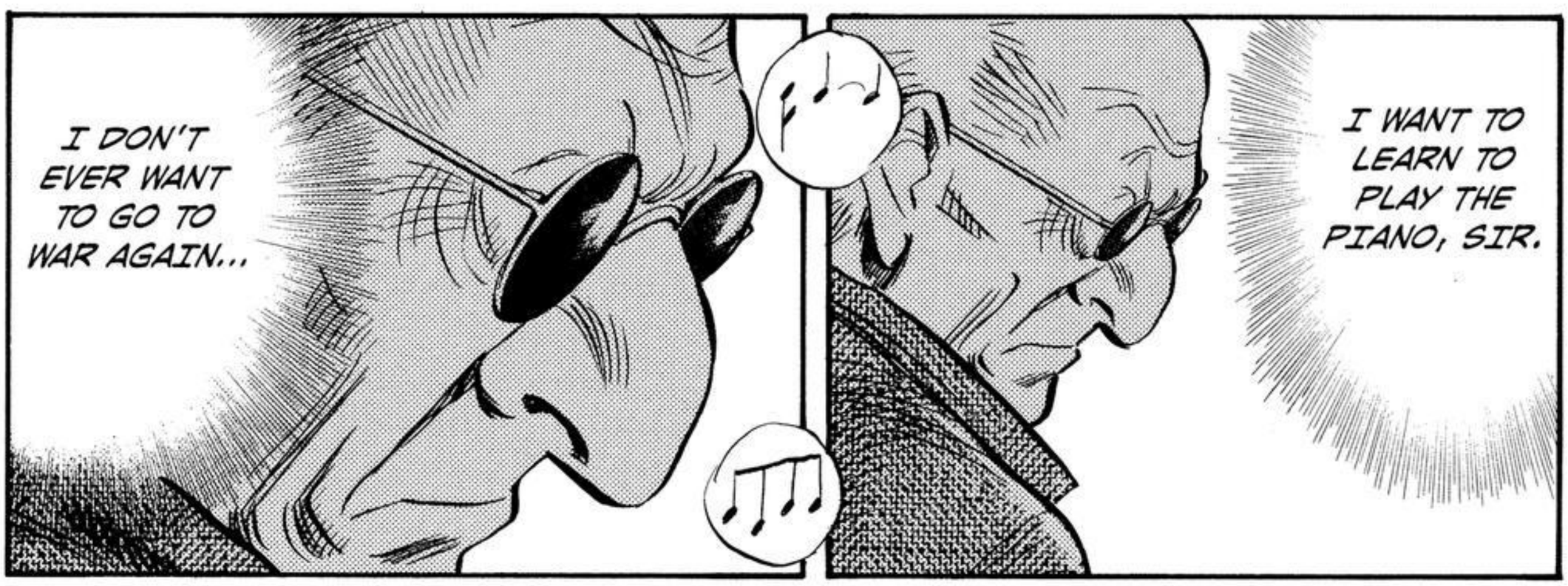
SILENCE!!

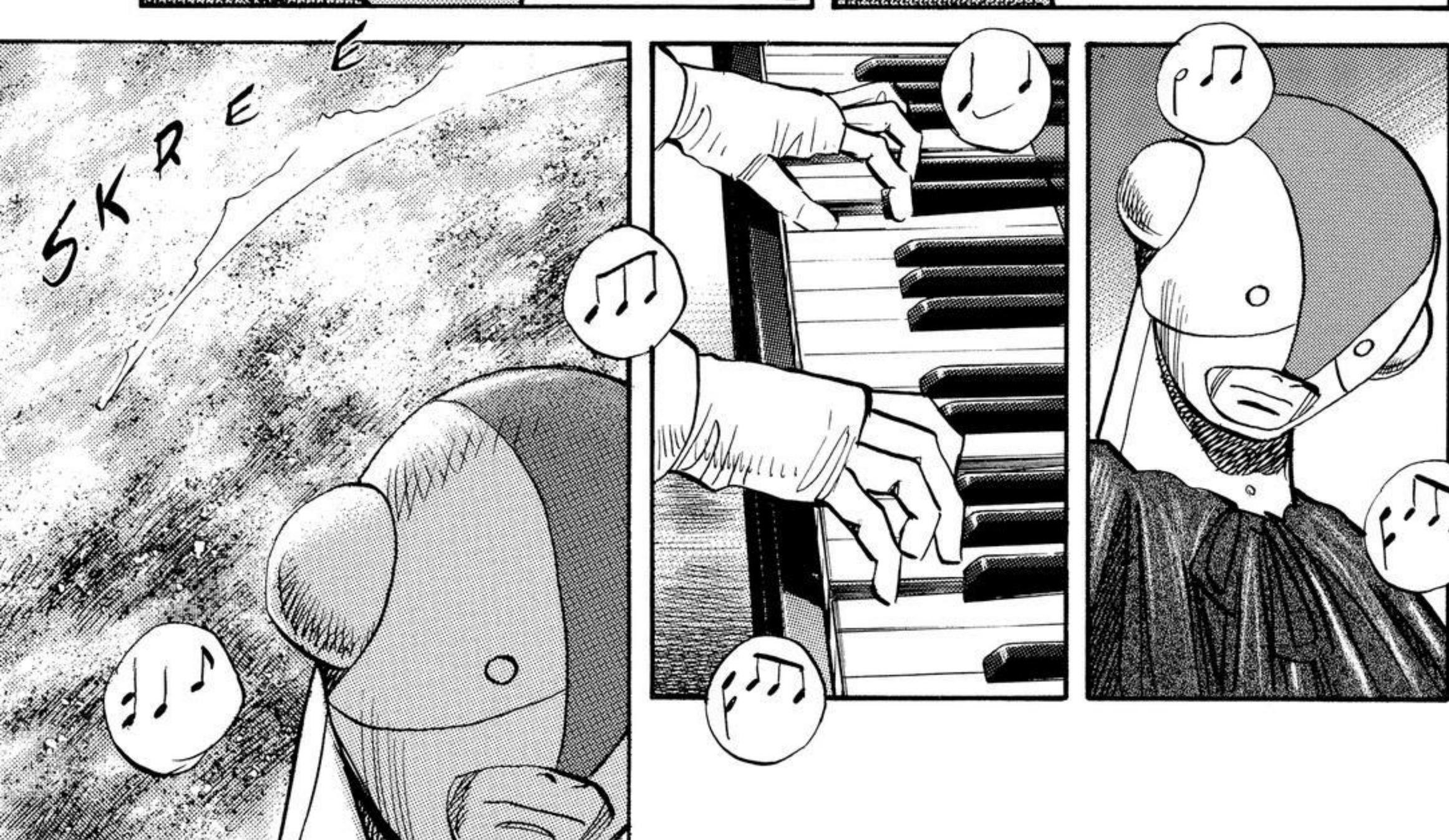


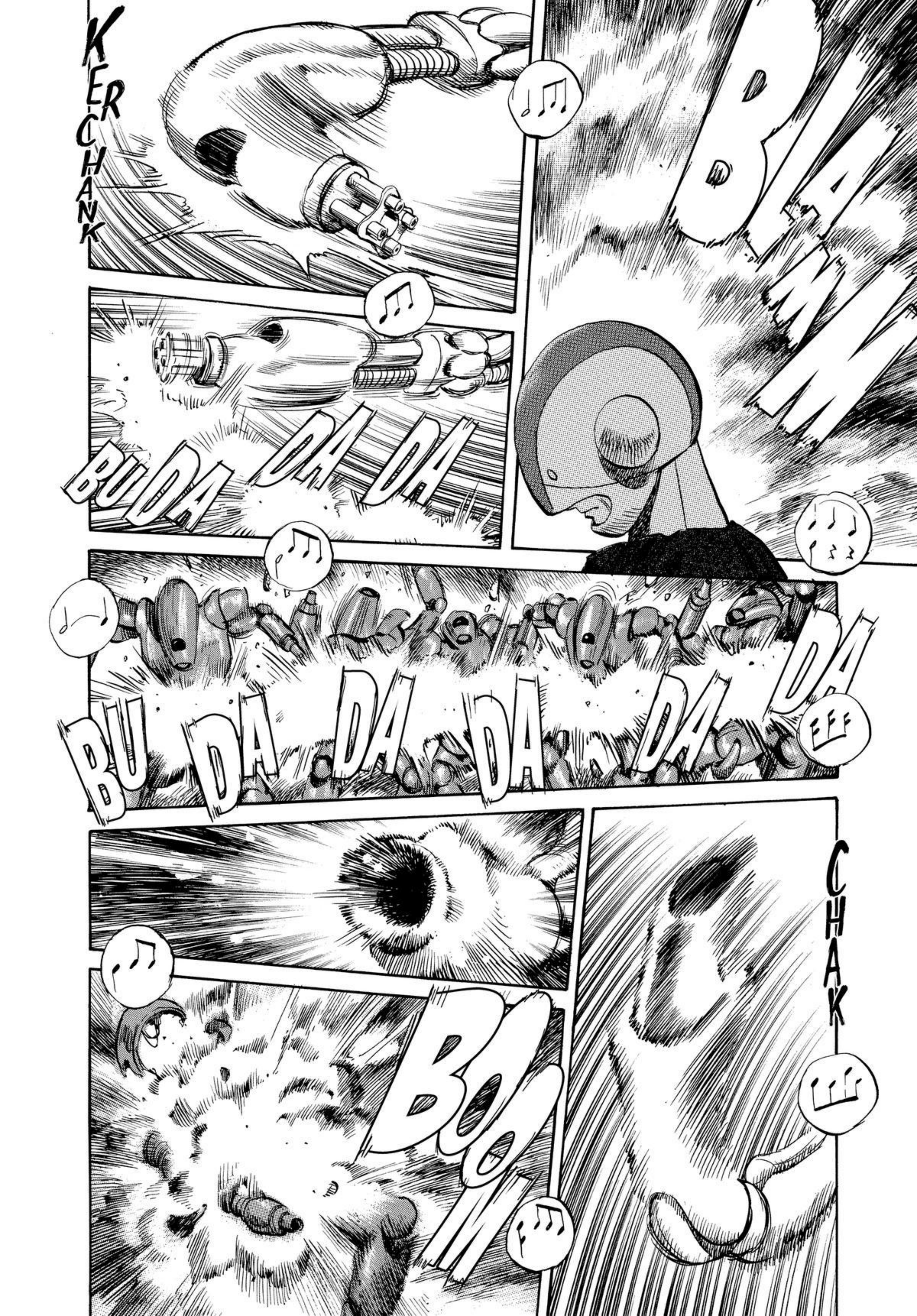

I'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER OF RECOMMEN-DATION...
BUT I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE BY TOMORROW ...



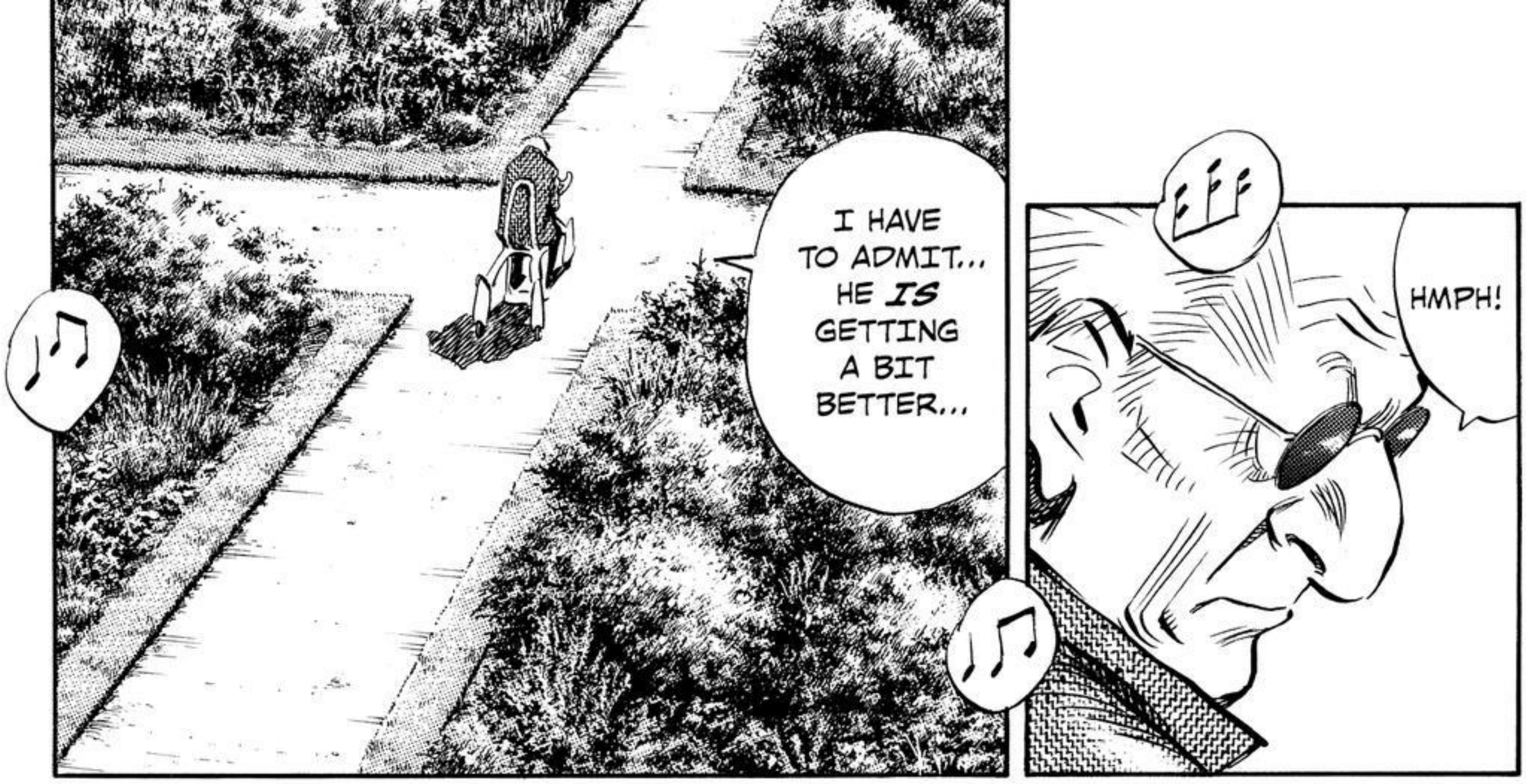


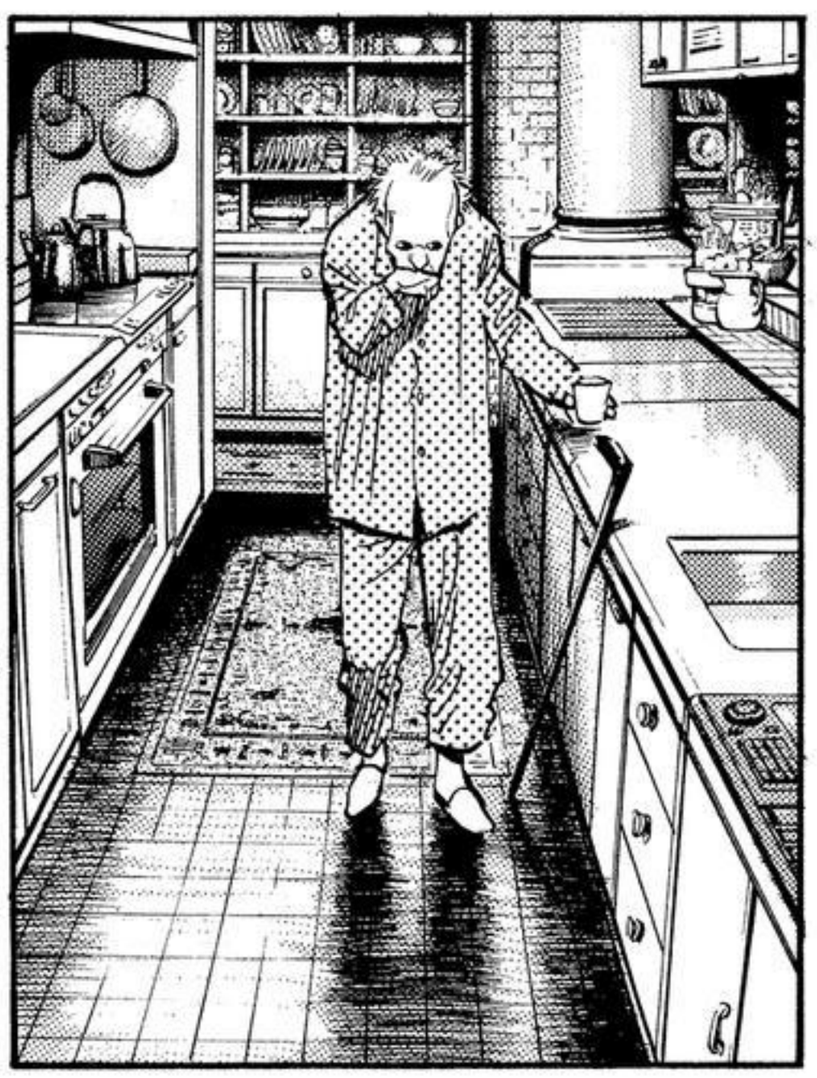

I DON'T EVER WANT TO GO TO WAR AGAIN...
I WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO, SIR.

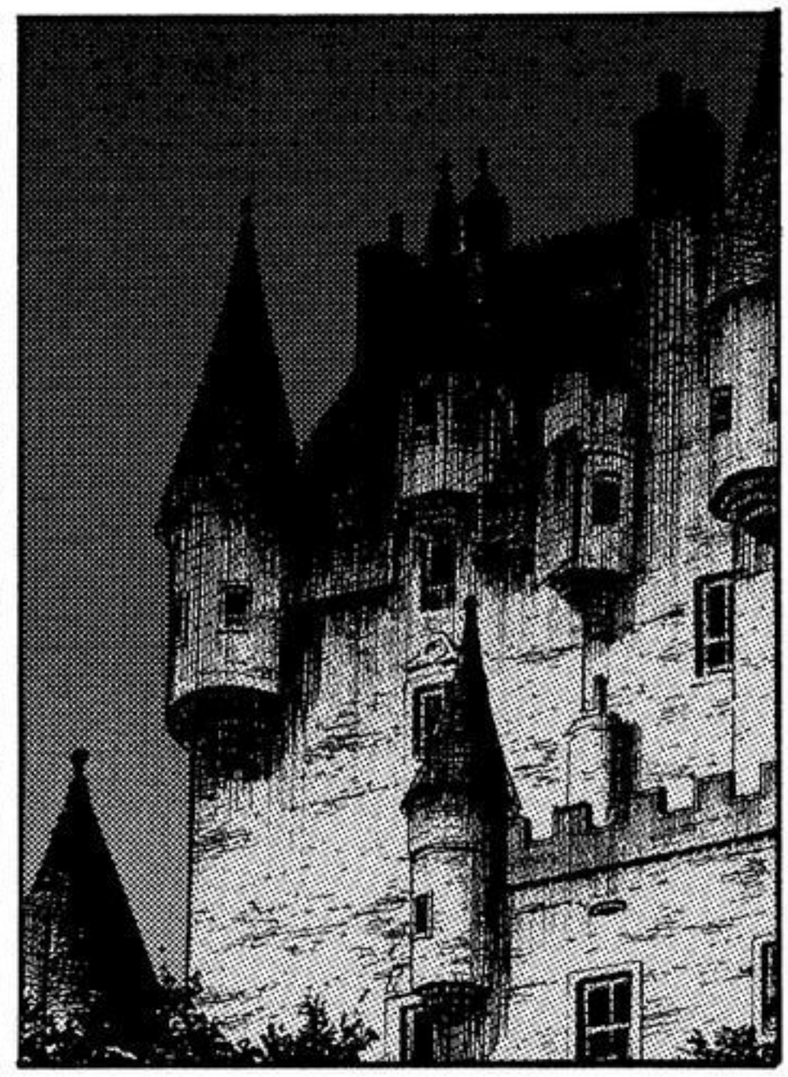

SKREE

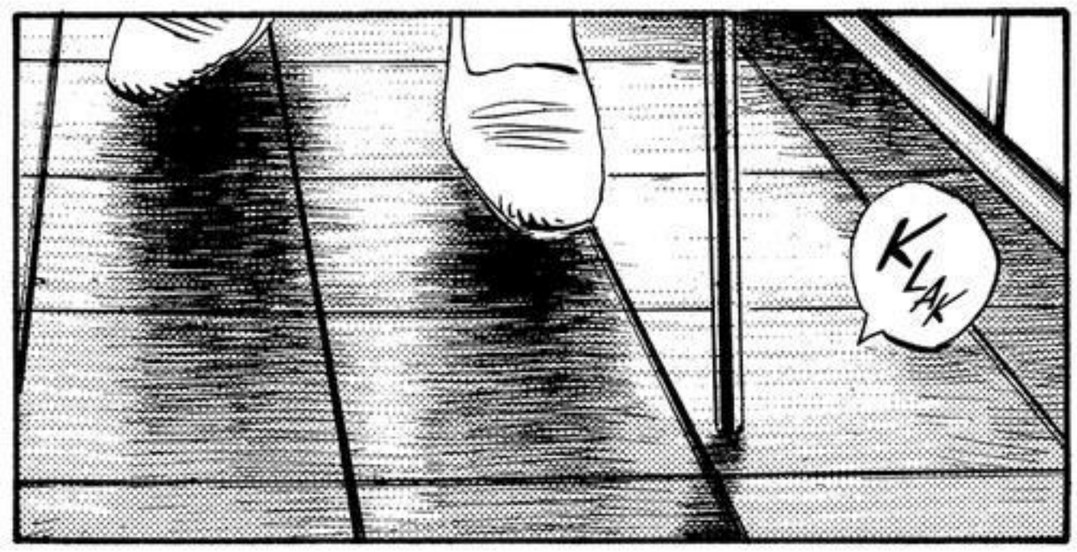

KERCHANK
BUDA DA DA
BU DA DA DA DA DA DA
FFF
CHANK
BOOM

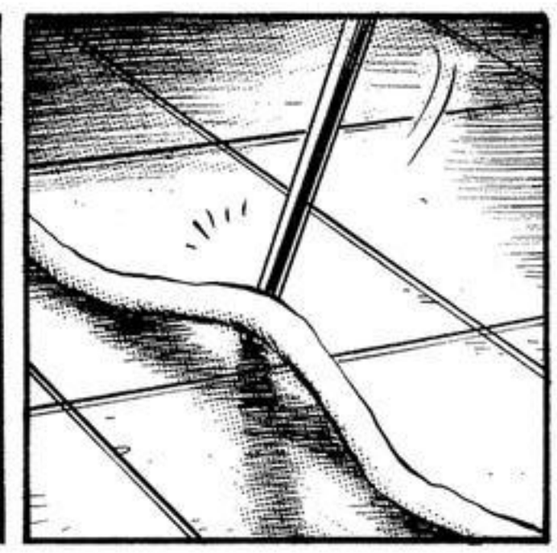
ZZAK ZAK
ZZAK
SCHWIP
KABLAM
BOOOM
KLATTA
KLATTA


♪
I HAVE TO ADMIT... HE *IS* GETTING A BIT BETTER...
♪
HMPH!

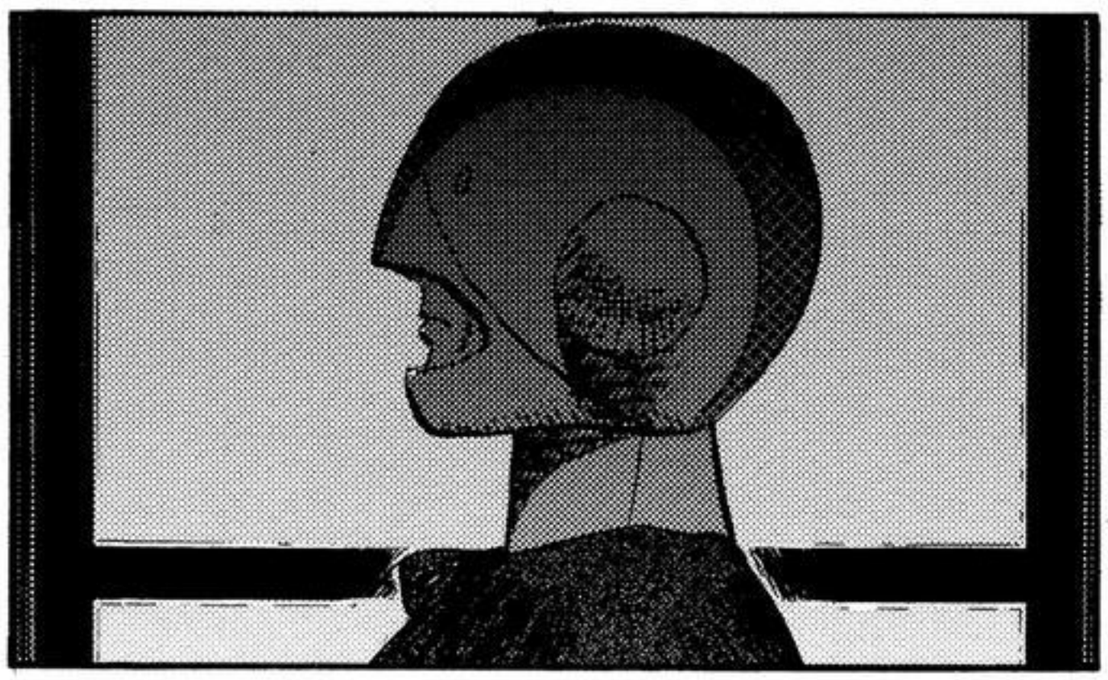


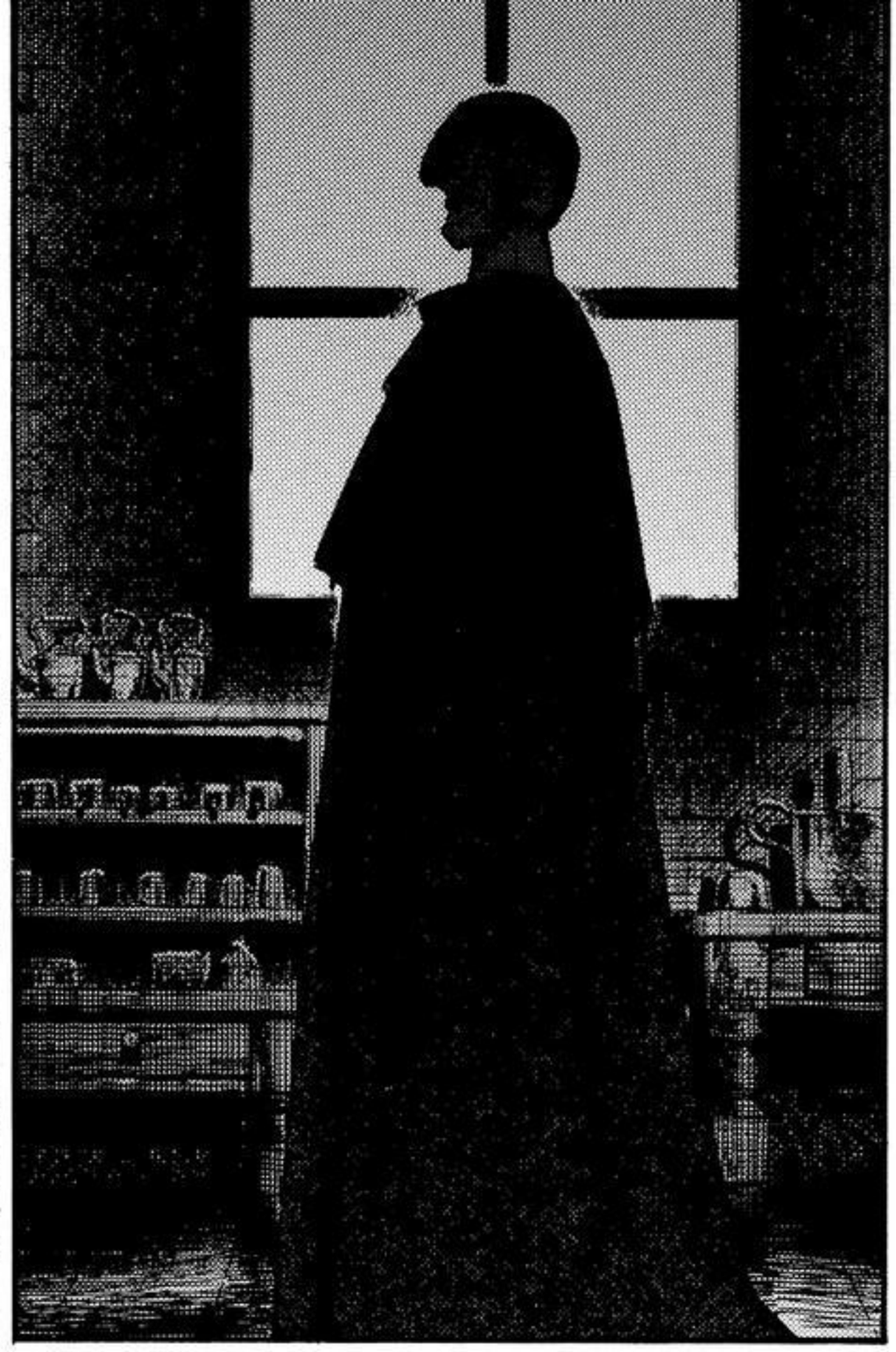


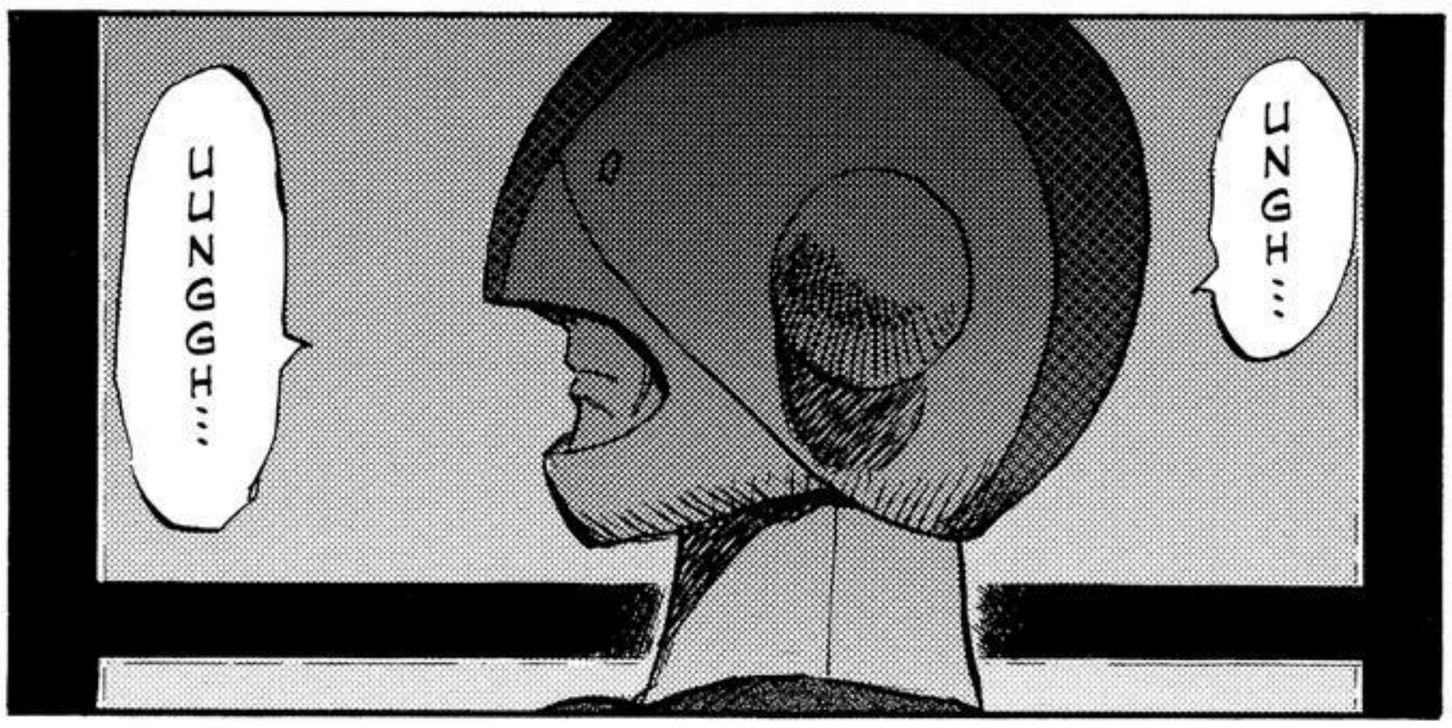

KLAK



...IN PREPARATION FOR HIS DEPARTURE TOMORROW ...
BLASTED MACHINE... MUST BE RECHARGING HIS BATTERIES ...






UNGH...
UUNGH...

?

SOUNDS LIKE A NIGHT-MARE...
AHH...

...

UNGH...
NGHH...

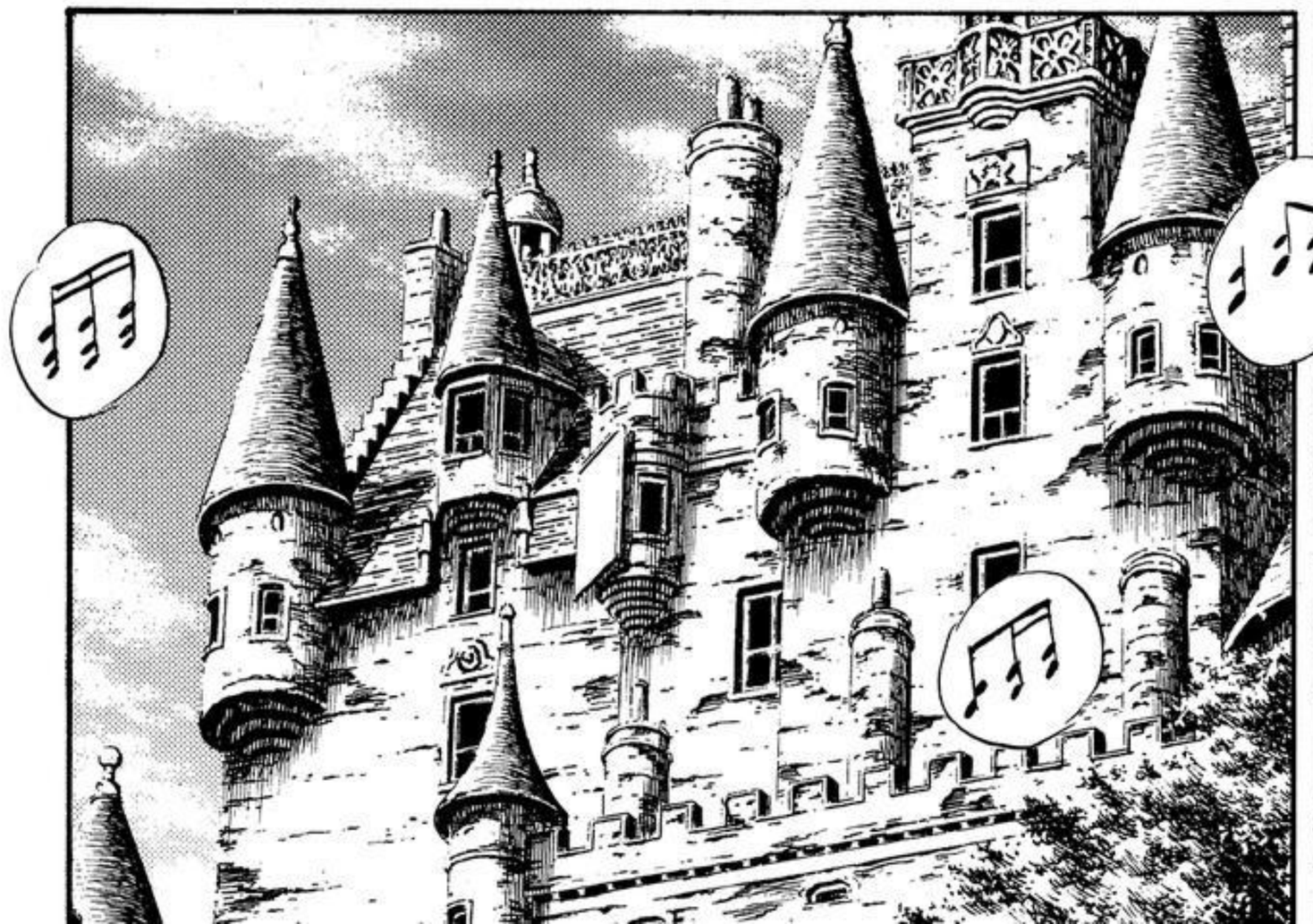
NGHH...

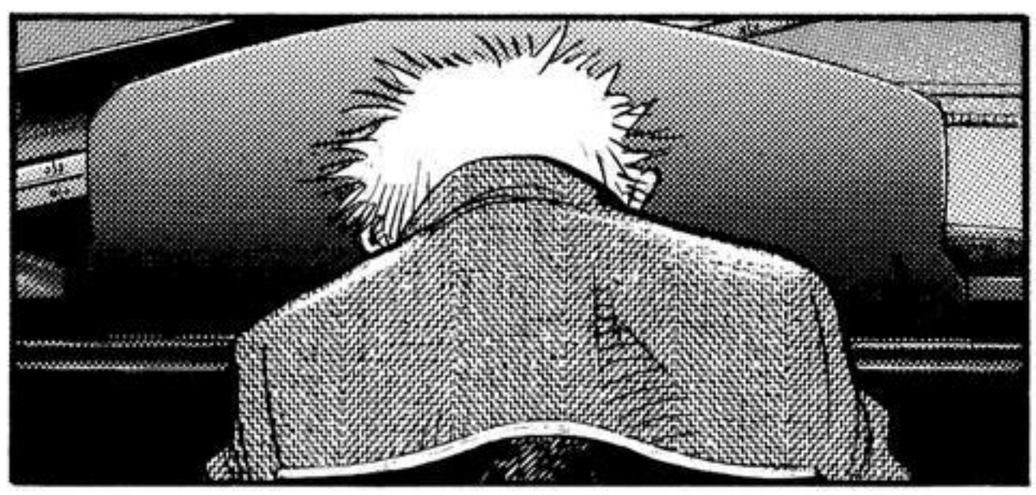
SO EVEN ROBOTS ...

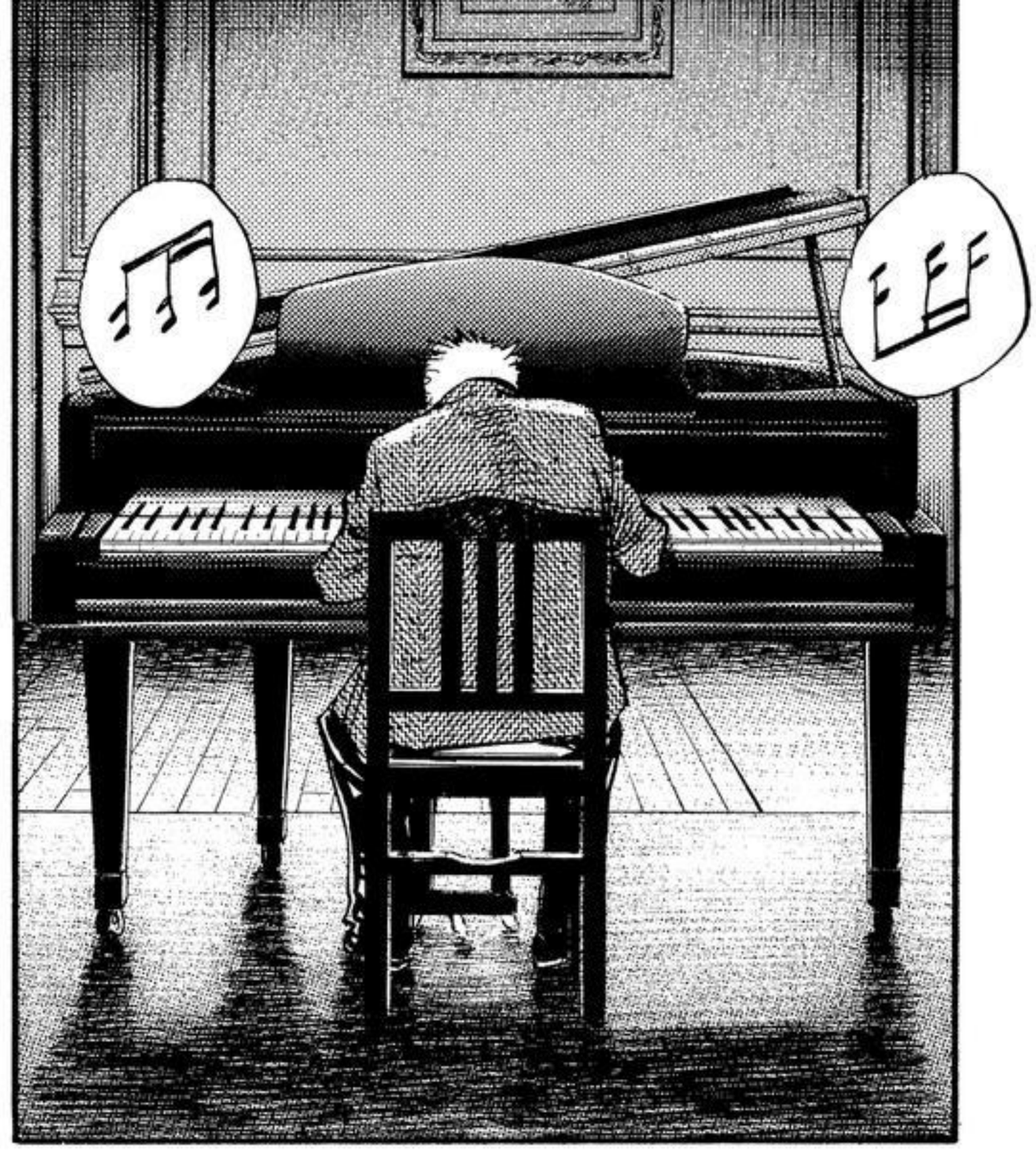
NGHH...

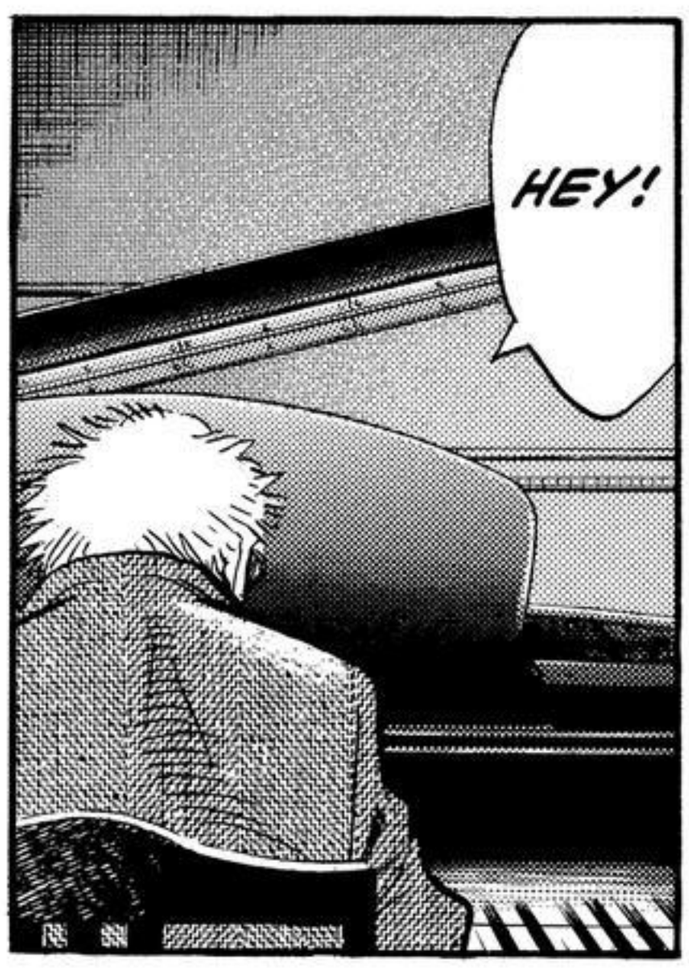
UNGH...

...CAN *DREAM?*





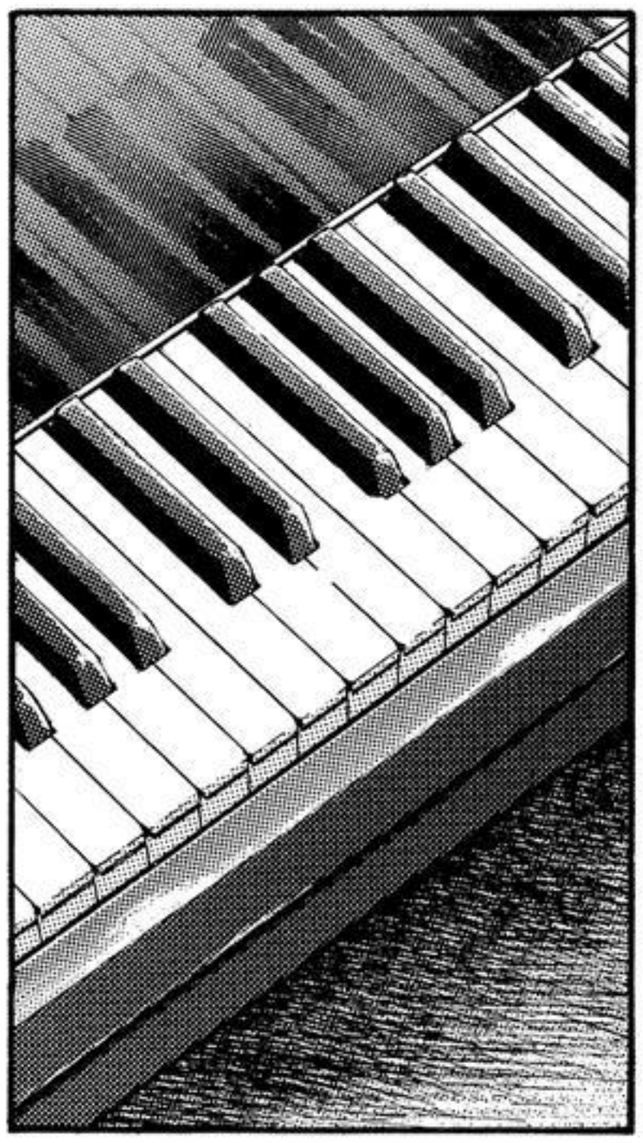



HEY!

IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T... RIGHT?
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T COMPOSE ANYMORE...

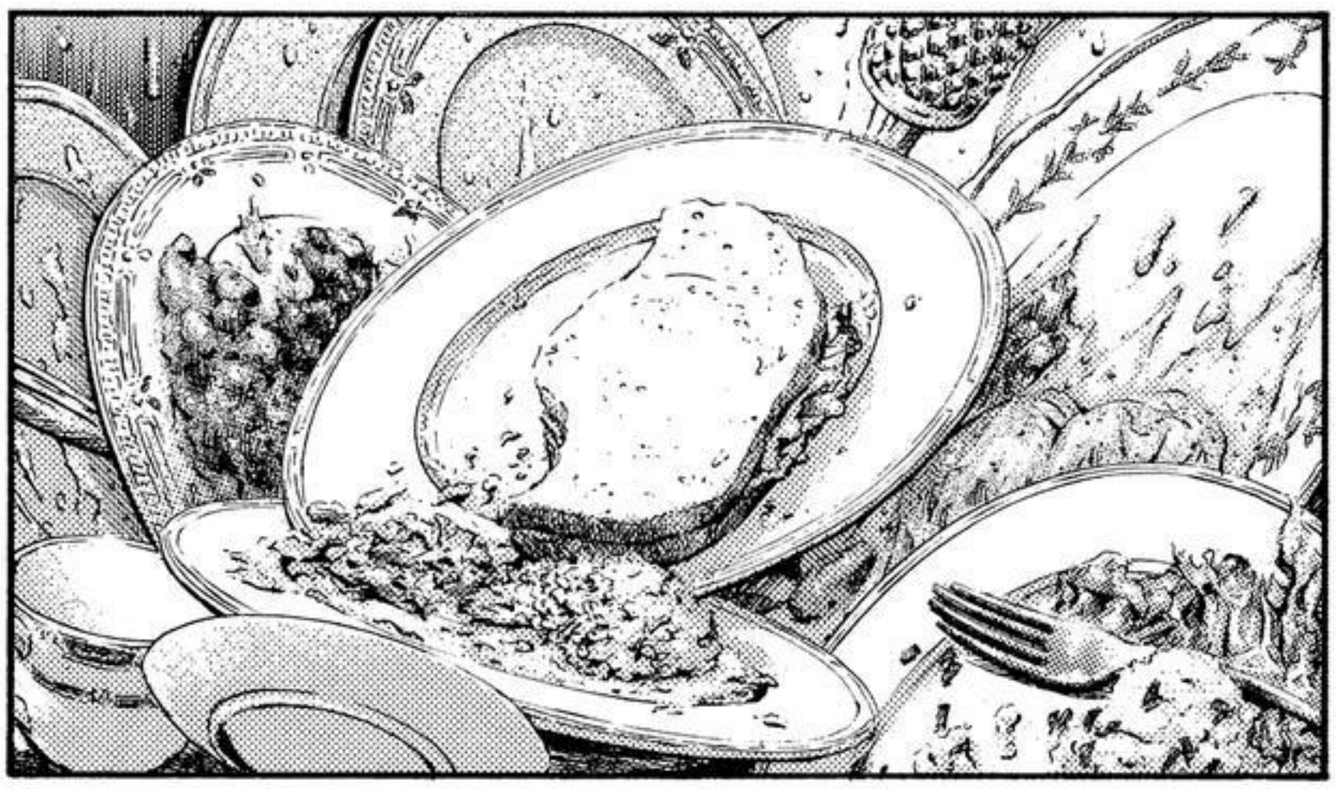
HEY!
NORTH NO. 2!

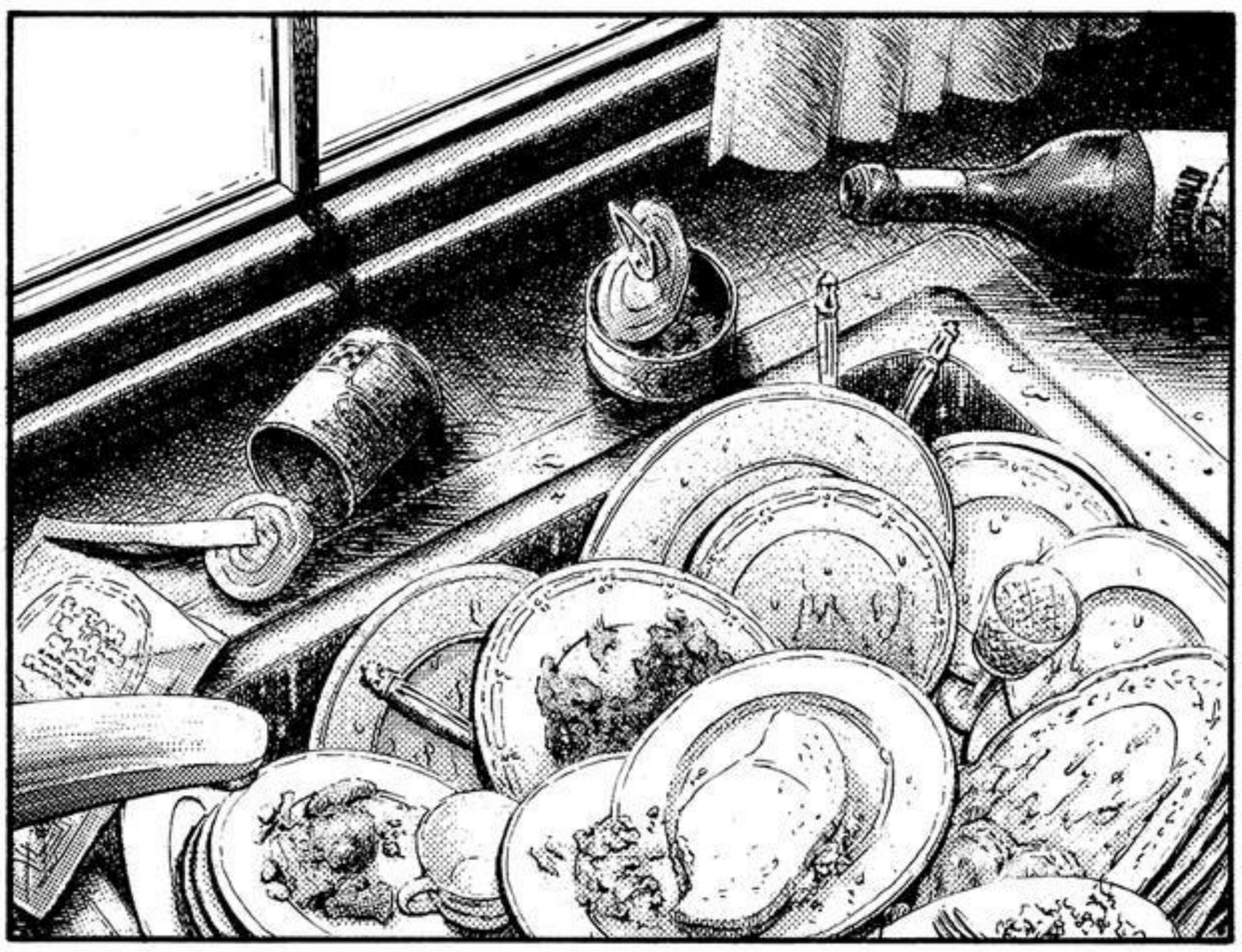
NORTH! WHERE ARE YOU?

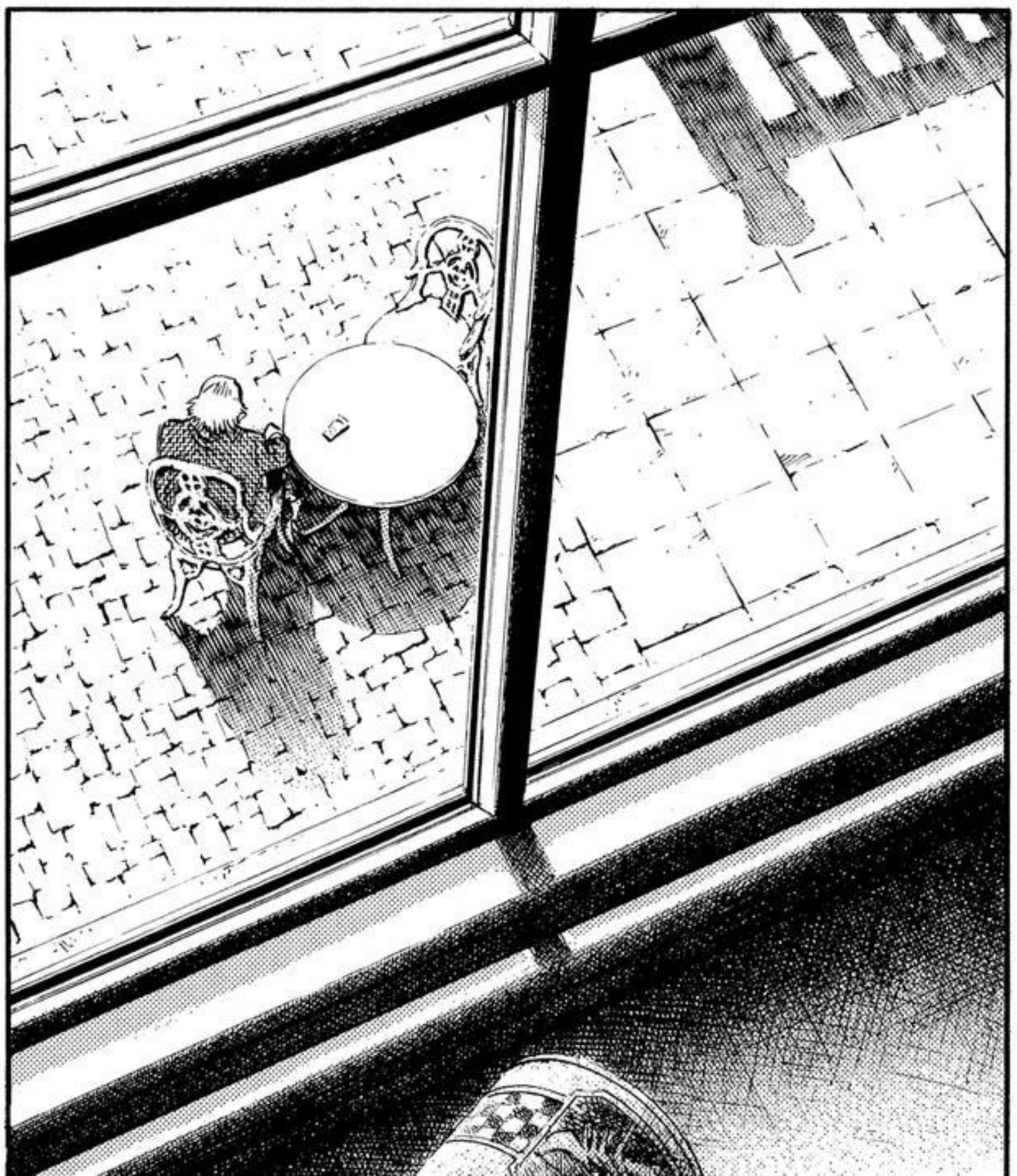


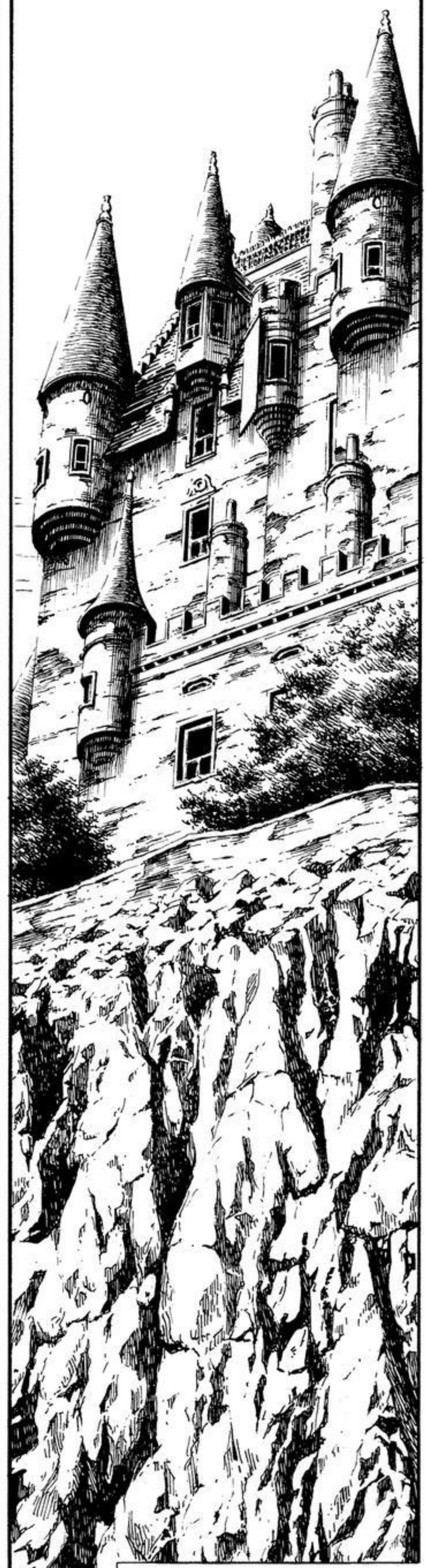
COULD IT REALLY BE THAT I *CAN'T* COMPOSE ANYTHING ANYMORE...?

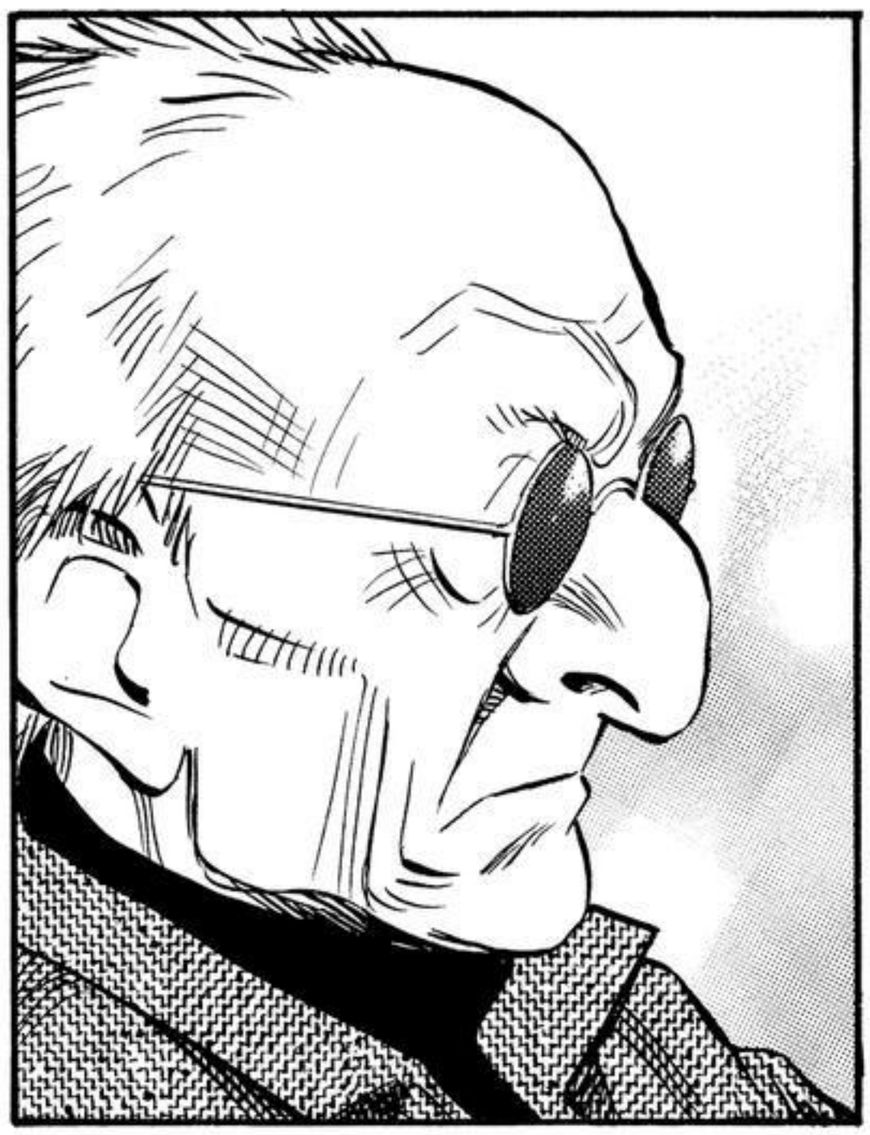
Act 6 NORTH No. 2 (Part 3)

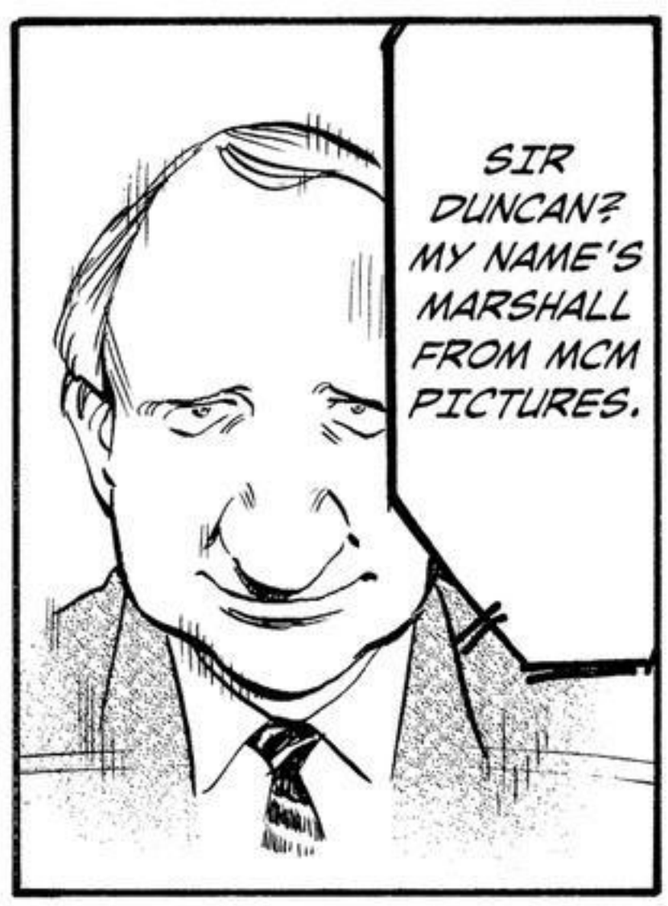


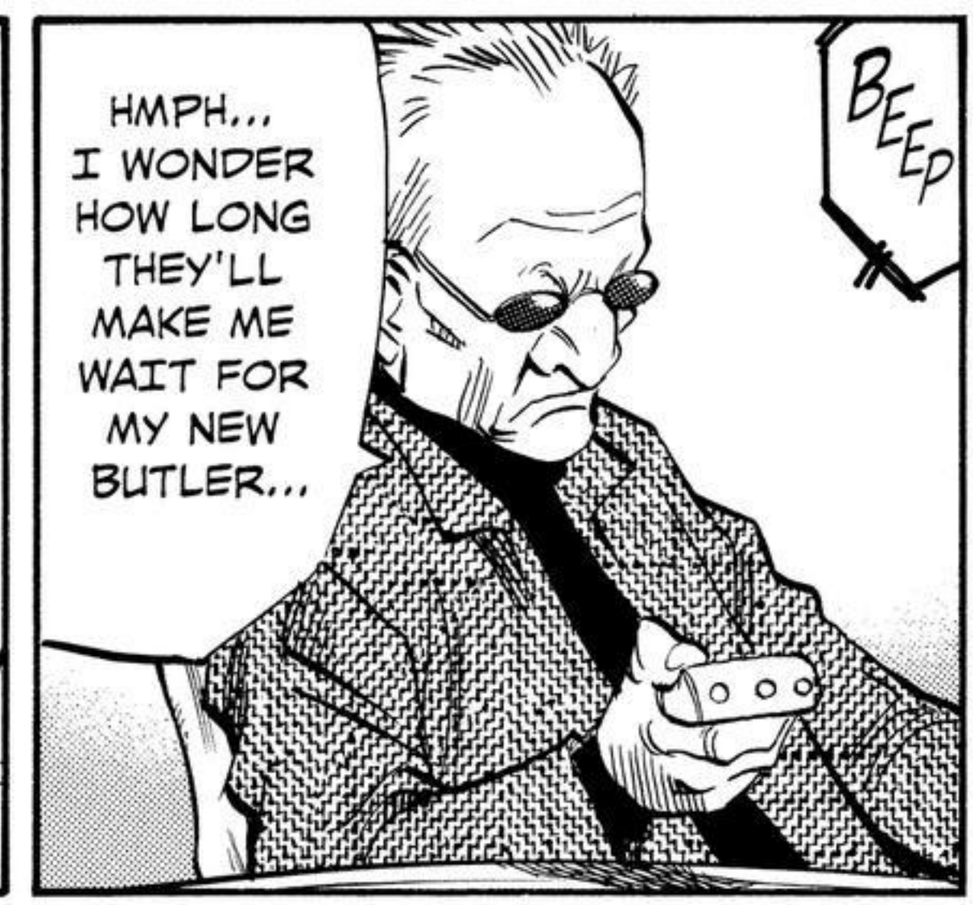


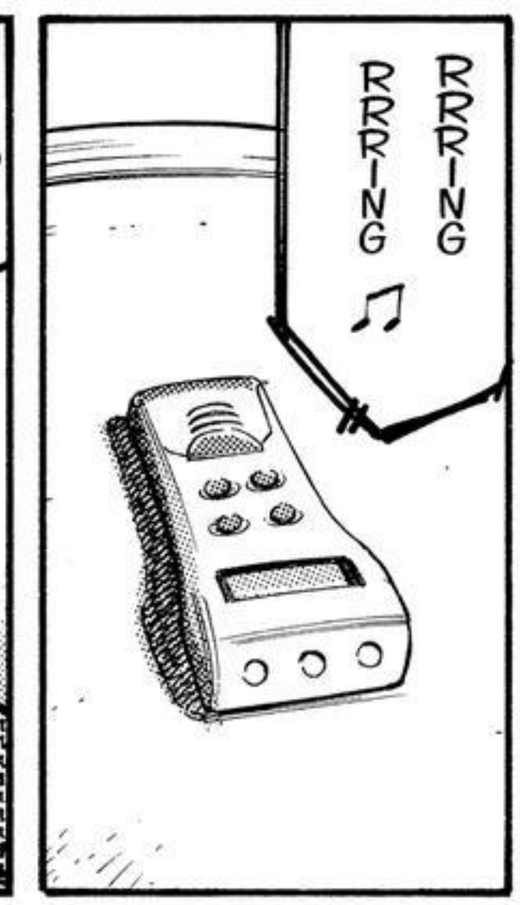


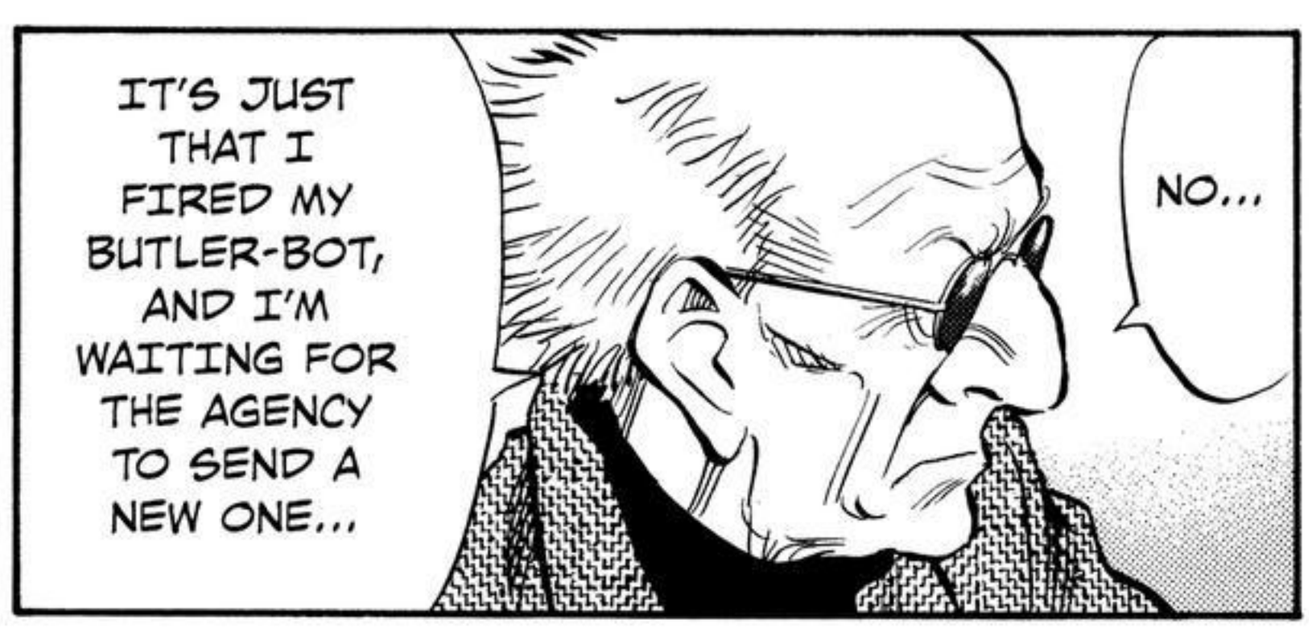


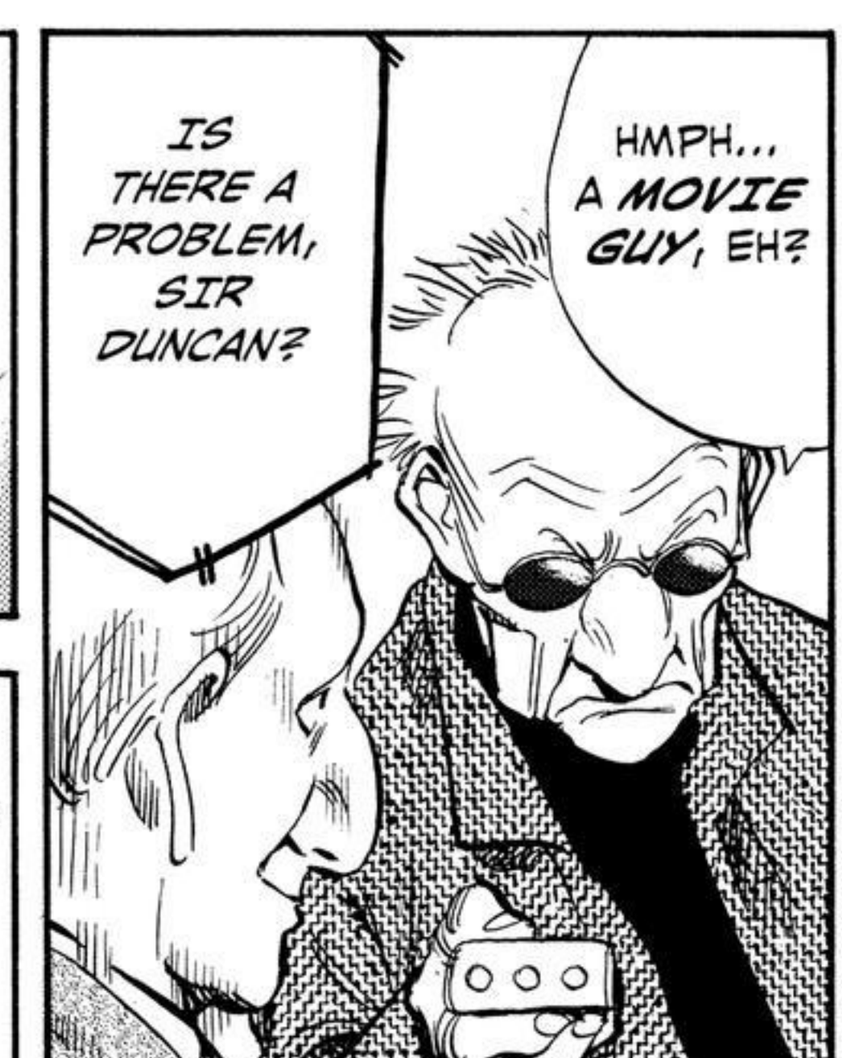



SIR DUNCAN? MY NAME'S MARSHALL FROM MCM PICTURES.

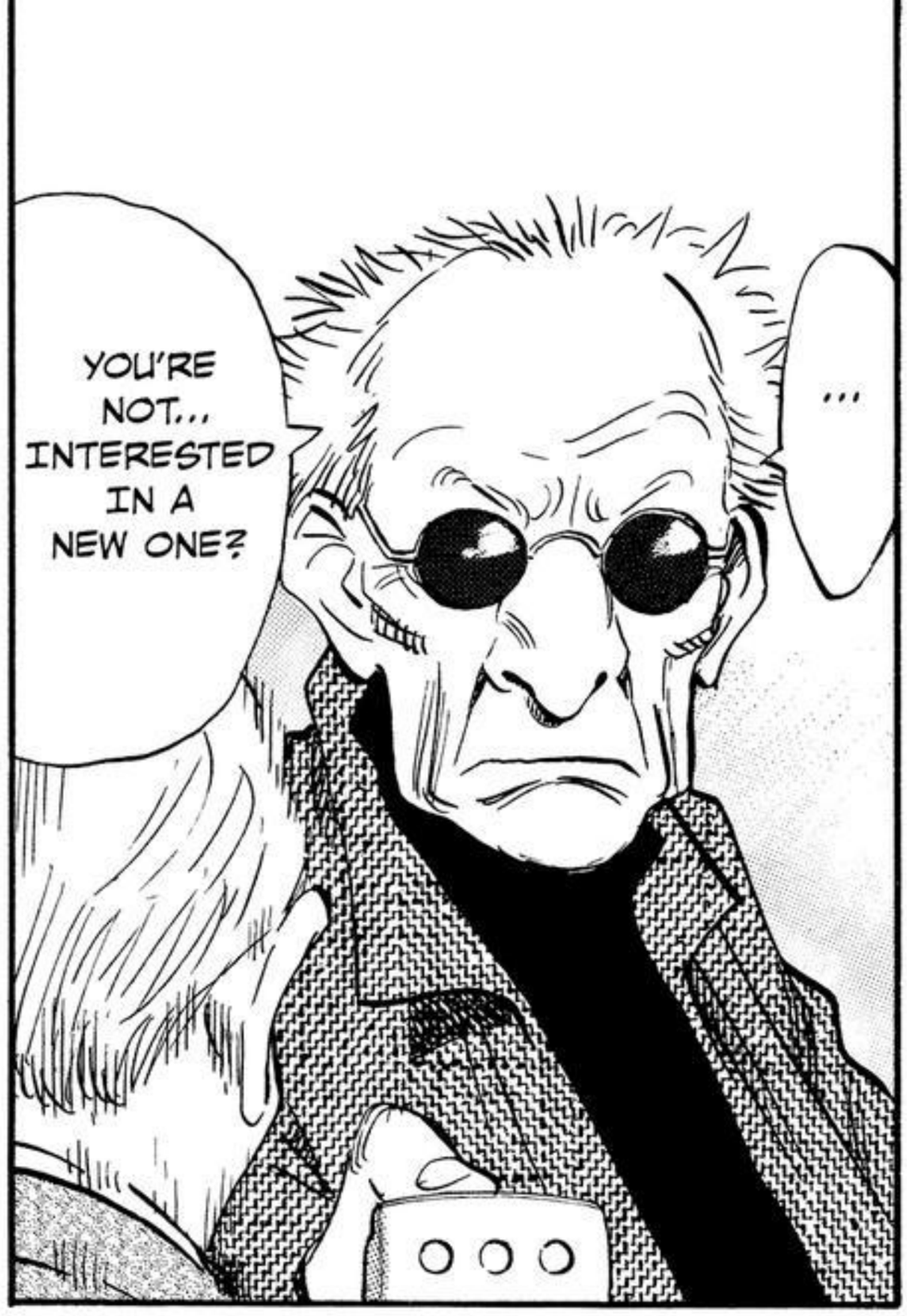

HMPH... I WONDER HOW LONG THEY'LL MAKE ME WAIT FOR MY NEW BUTLER...
BEEEP


RRRING
RRRING


IT'S JUST THAT I FIRED MY BUTLER-BOT, AND I'M WAITING FOR THE AGENCY TO SEND A NEW ONE...
NO...

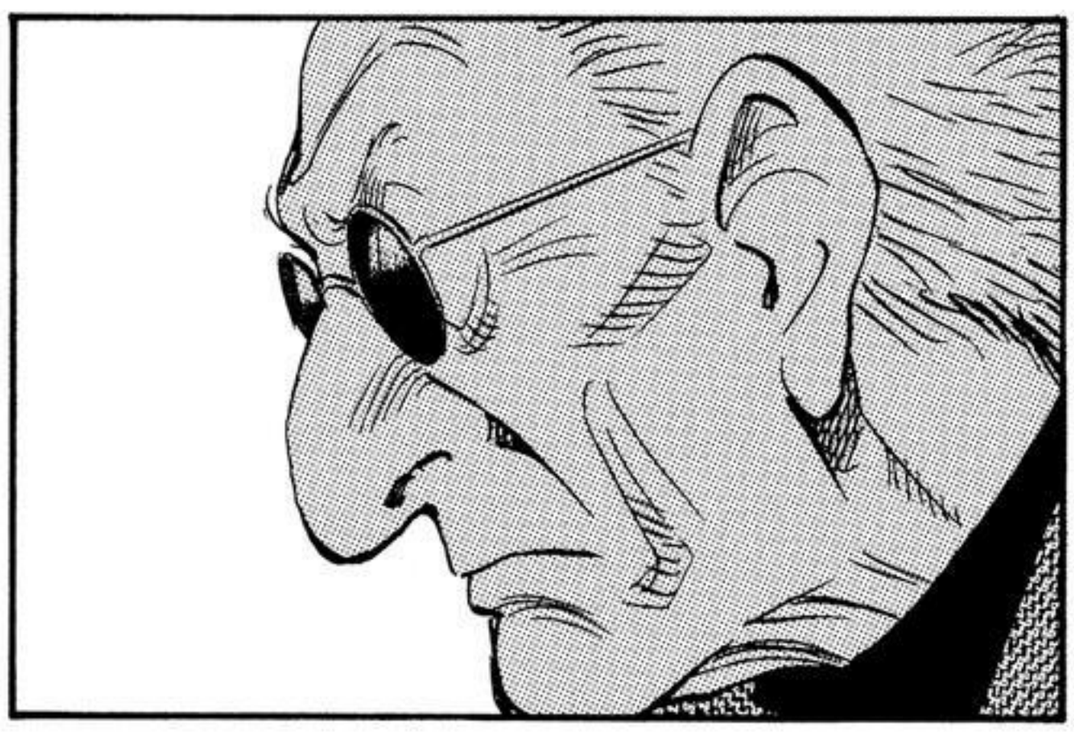

IS THERE A PROBLEM, SIR DUNCAN?
HMPH... A MOVIE GUY, EH?

ACTUALLY, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT A FILM SCORE...
BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

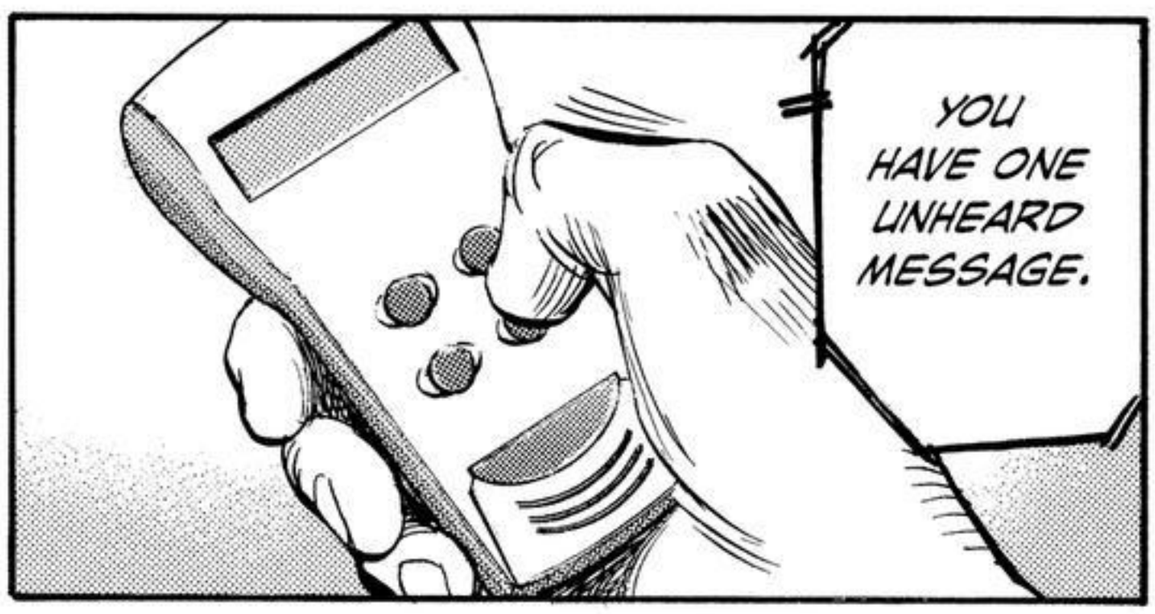

YOU'RE NOT... INTERESTED IN A NEW ONE?
...

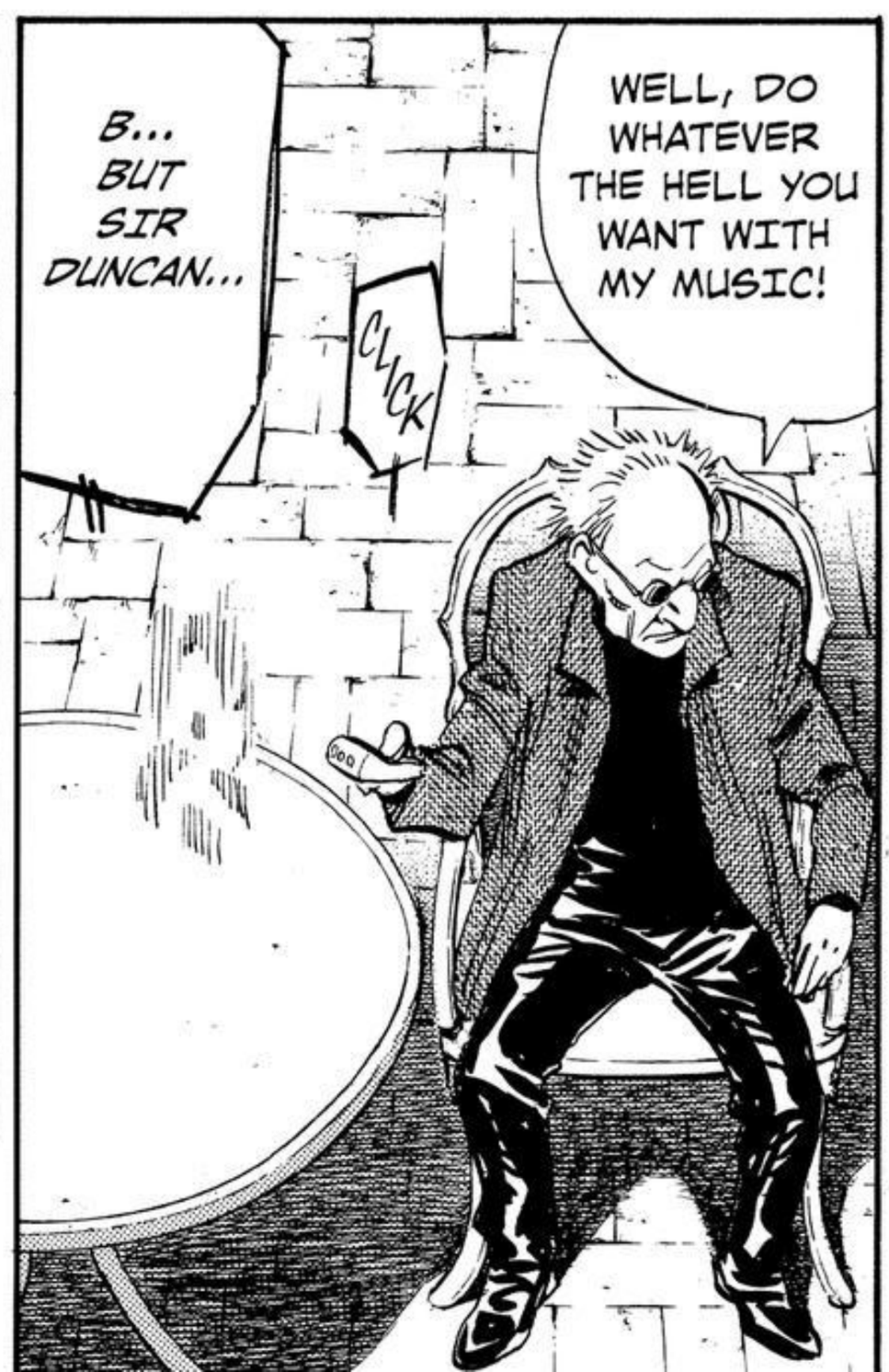
WELL, DEPENDING ON THE PROJECT, I MAY OR MAY NOT HEAR YOU OUT...
HMPH... YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO WORK FOR YOU ...

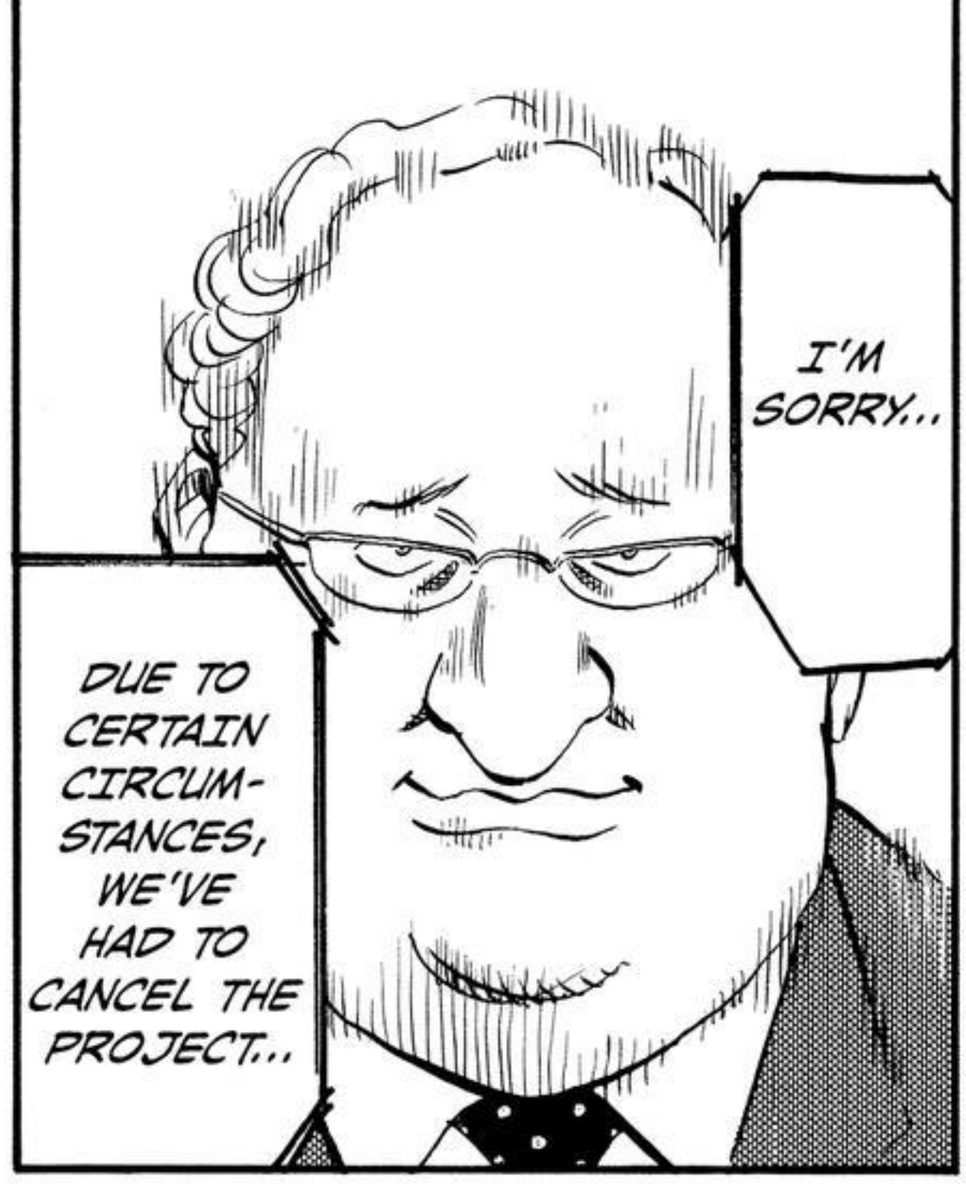
IT'S ACTUALLY ABOUT RE-USING ONE OF YOUR PAST SCORES...
YES... WELL...

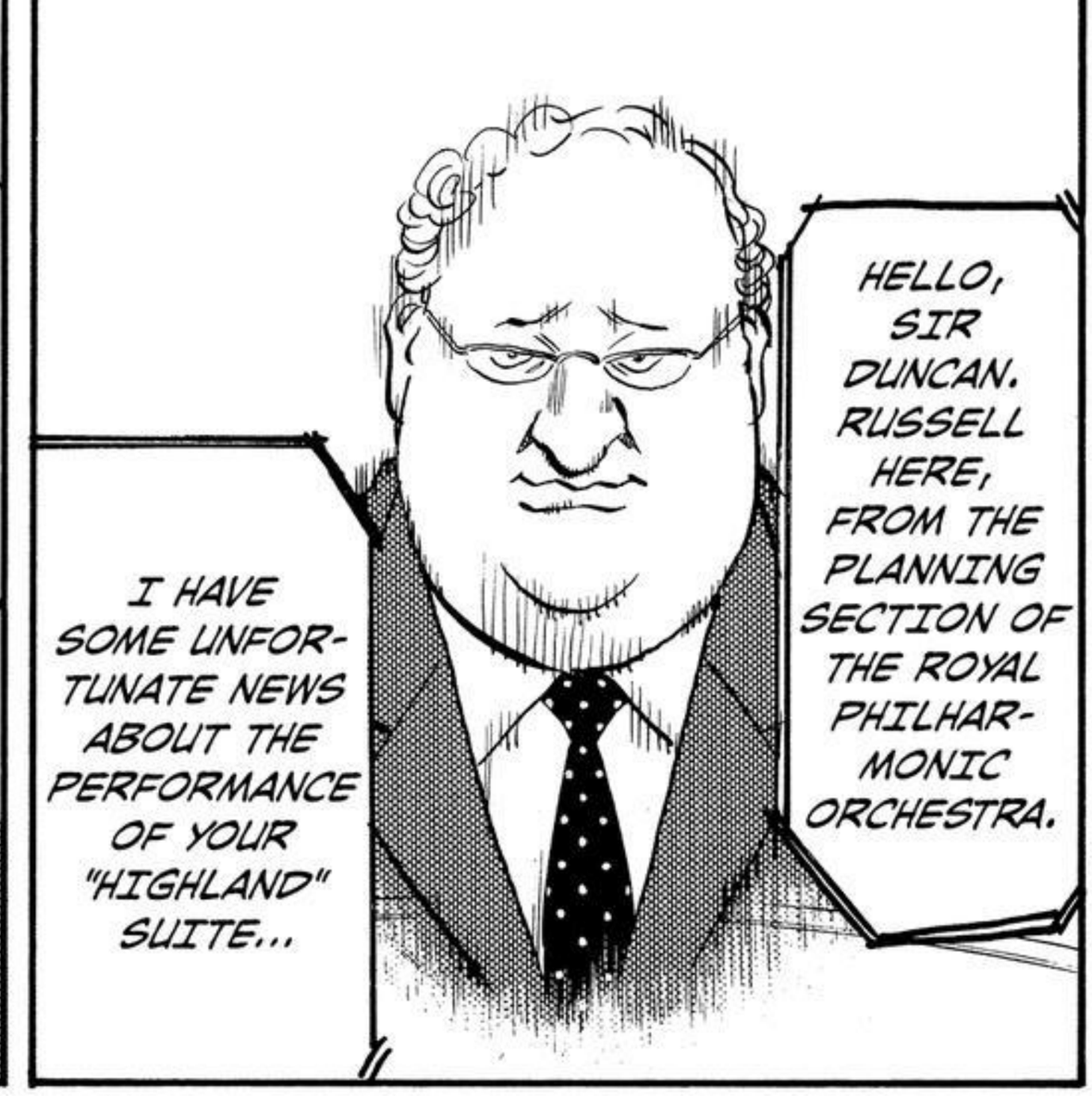


I'D HEARD THAT YOU'RE RETIRED...
UH... NO SIR...


YOU HAVE ONE UNHEARD MESSAGE.

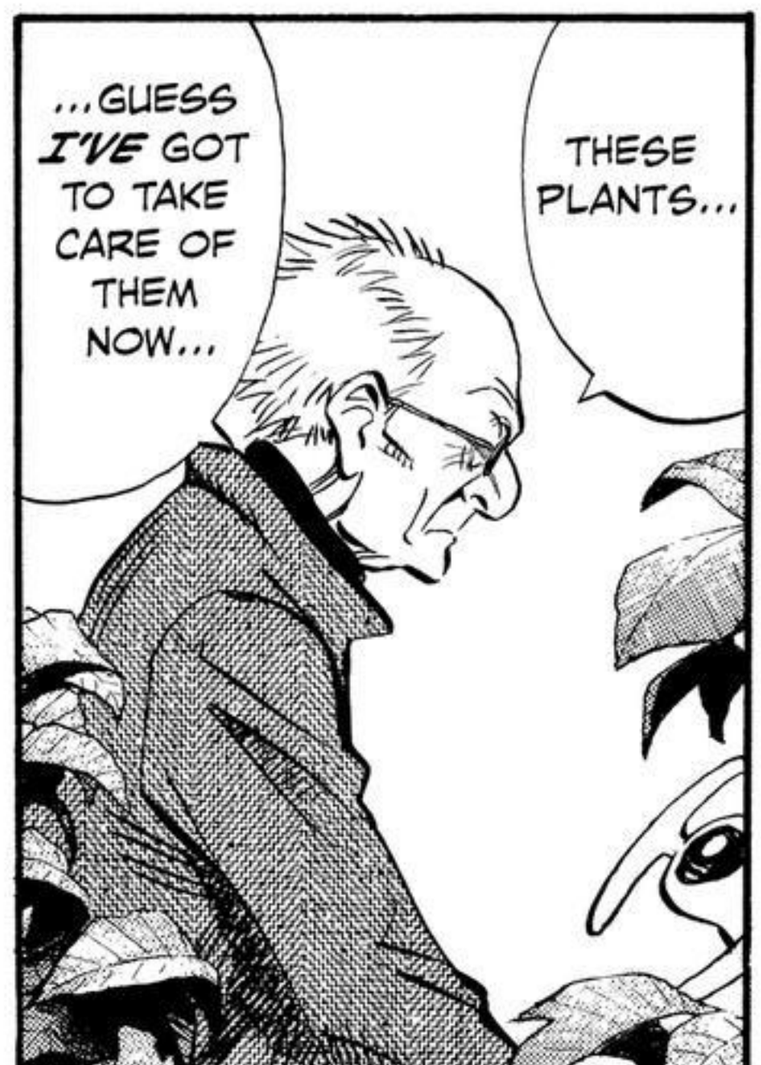

B... BUT SIR DUNCAN...
CLICK
WELL, DO WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT WITH MY MUSIC!

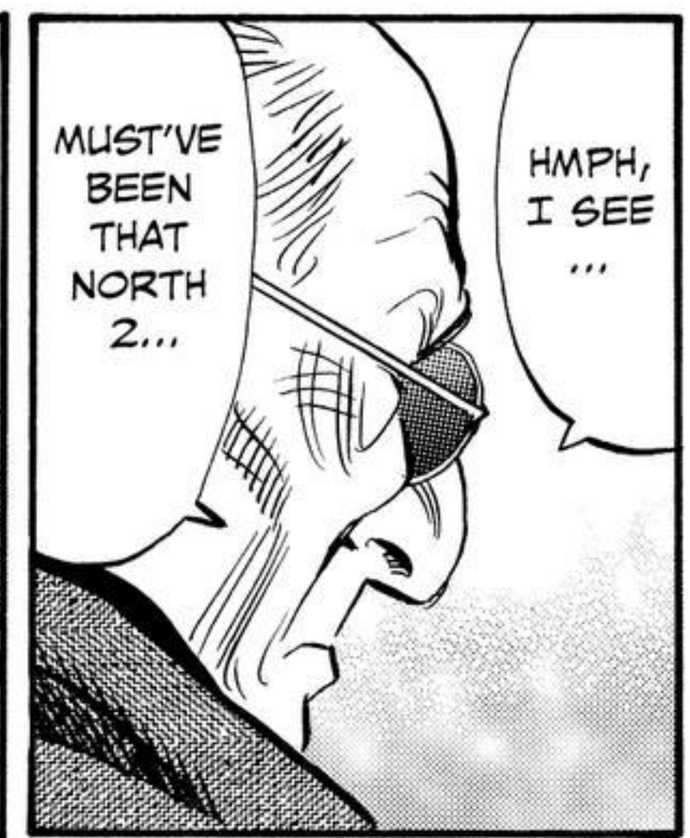

I'M SORRY...
DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUM-STANCES, WE'VE HAD TO CANCEL THE PROJECT...

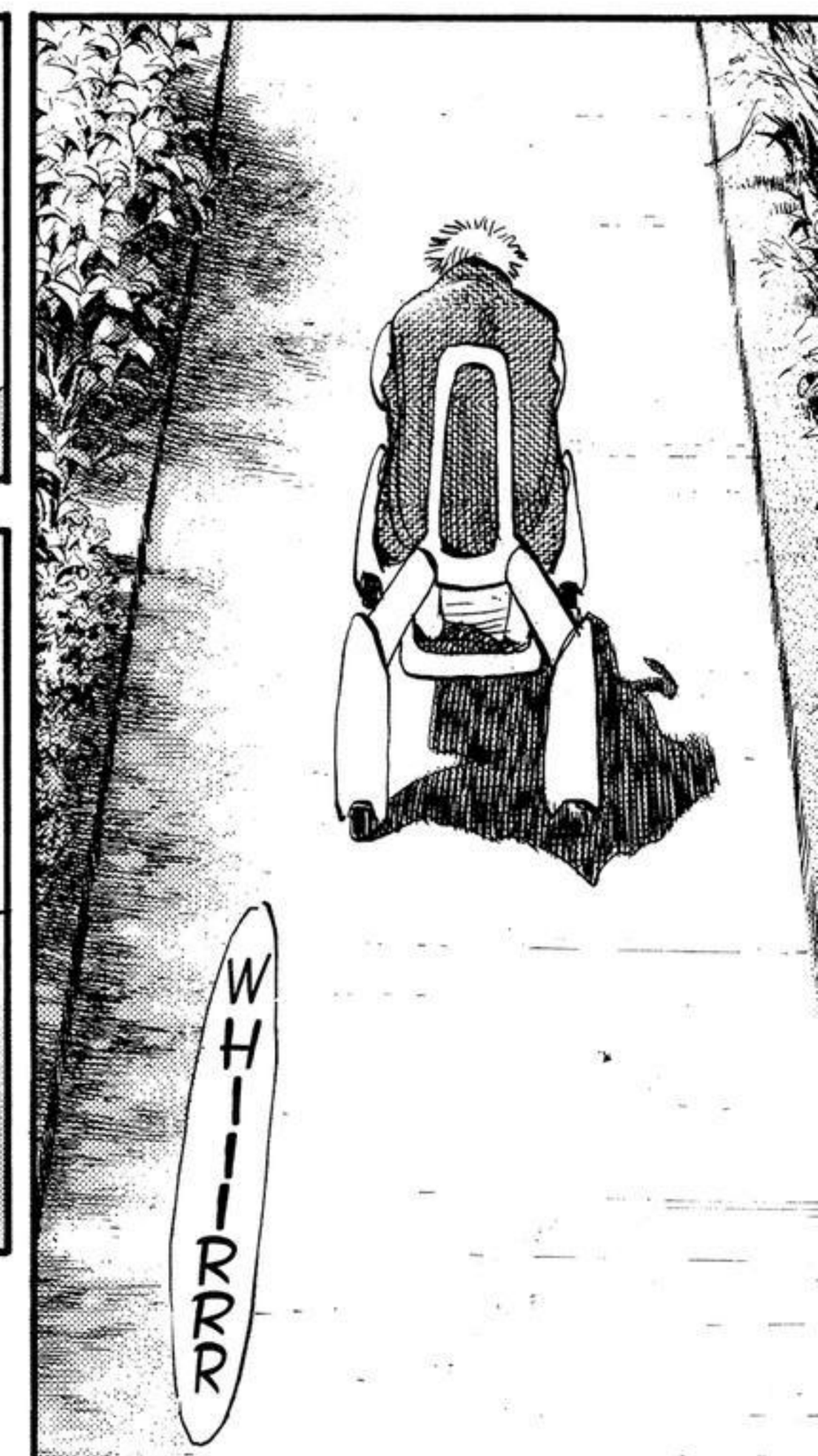

HELLO, SIR DUNCAN. RUSSELL HERE, FROM THE PLANNING SECTION OF THE ROYAL PHILHAR-MONIC ORCHESTRA.
I HAVE SOME UNFOR-TUNATE NEWS ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR "HIGHLAND" SUITE...

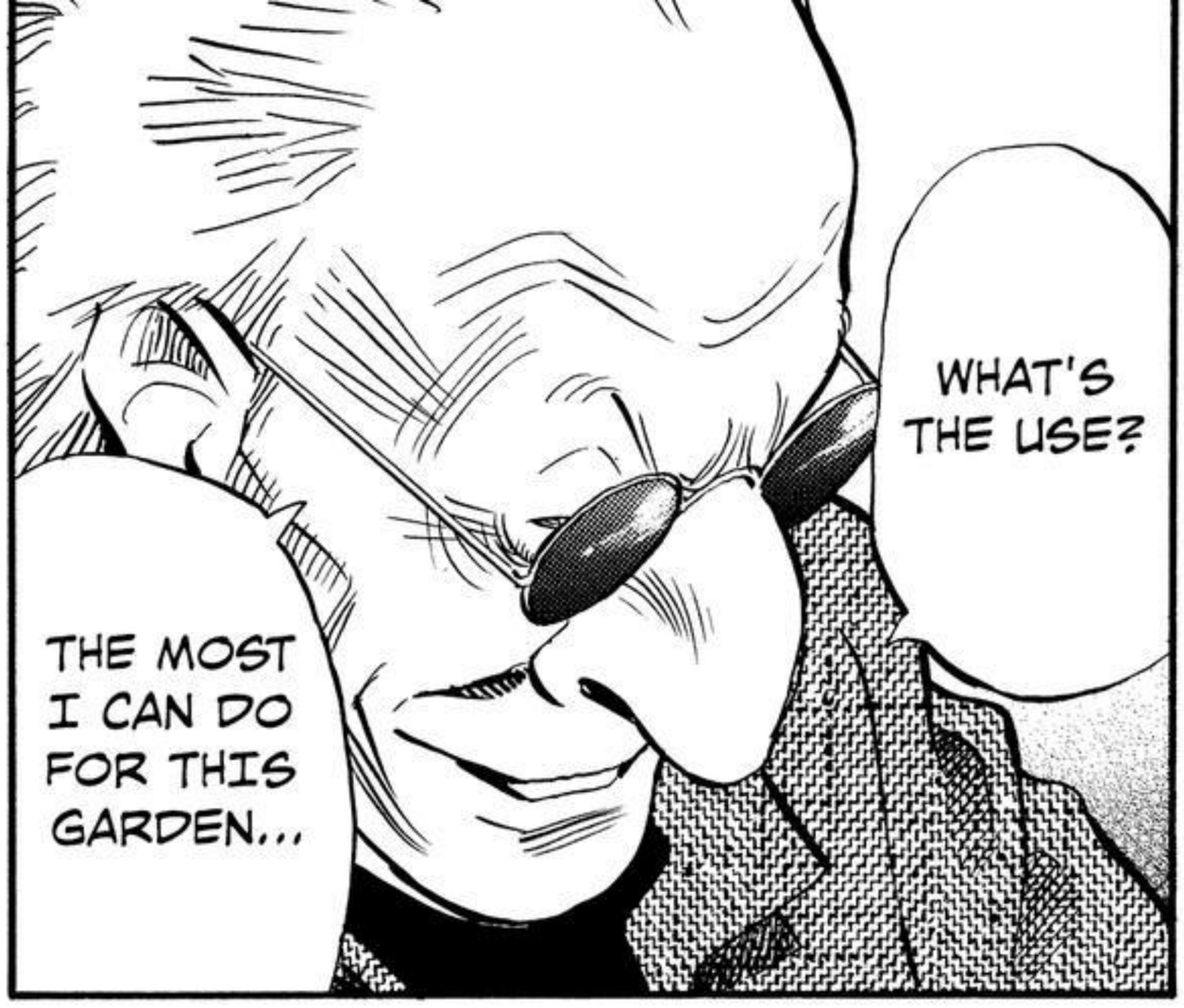
WHIIIRRRRR
BUT I HOPE WE'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER AGAIN SOMETIME...

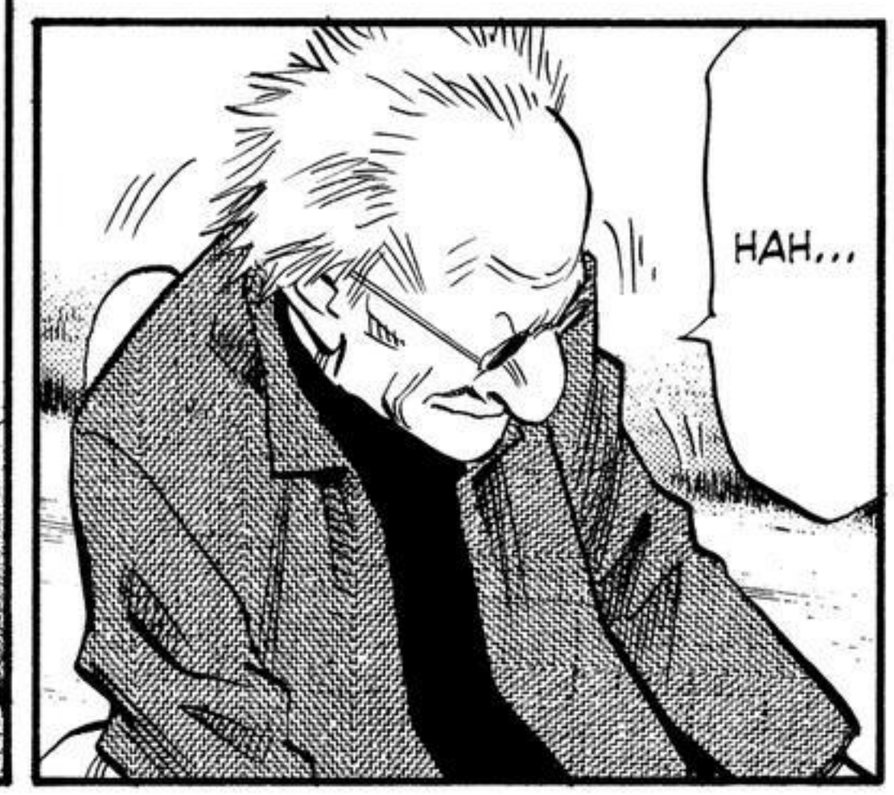
HMM... WHAT'S THIS FRAGRANCE?

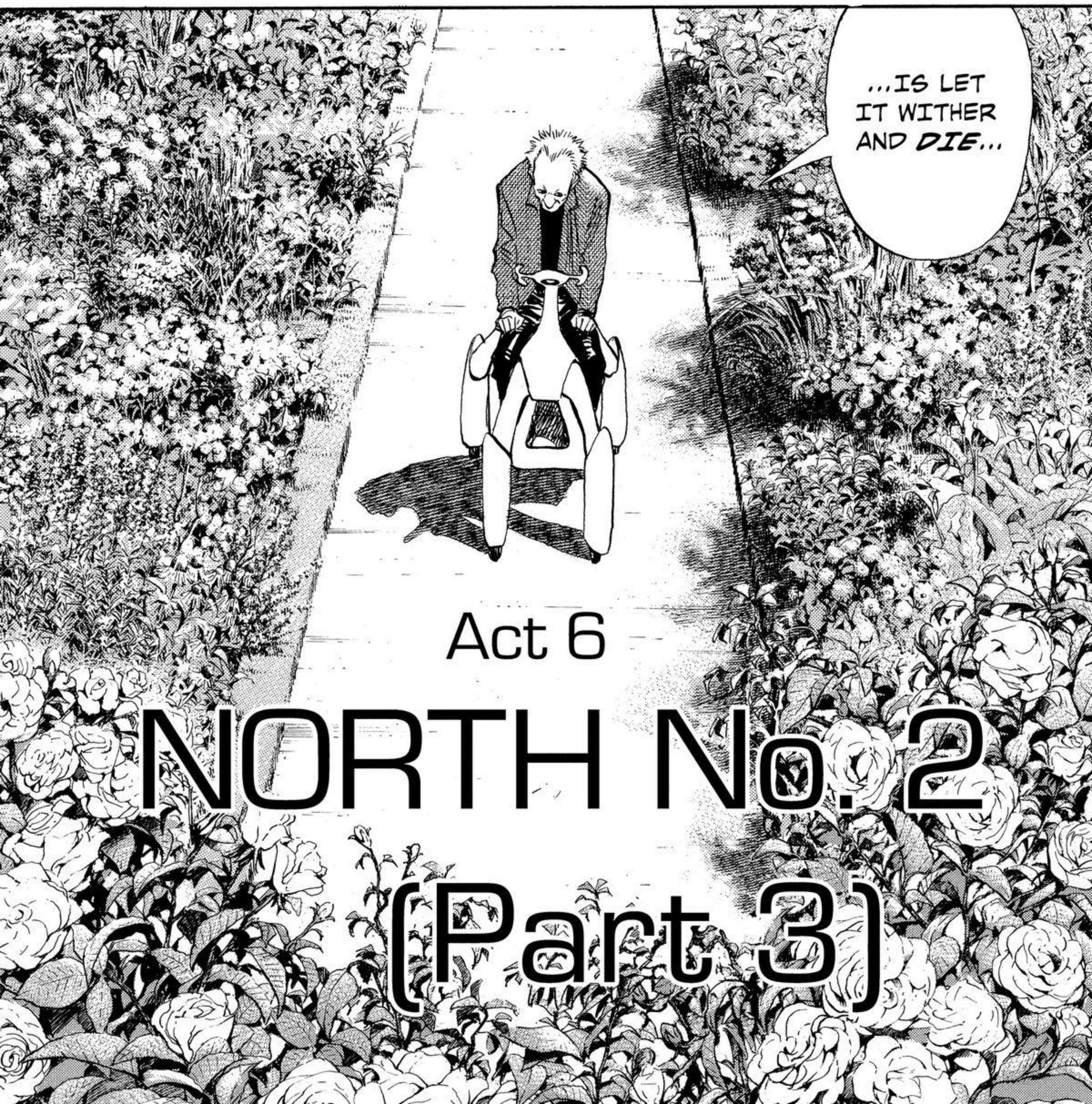

...GUESS I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THEM NOW...
THESE PLANTS...


MUST'VE BEEN THAT NORTH 2...
HMPH, I SEE ...


WHIIIRRR

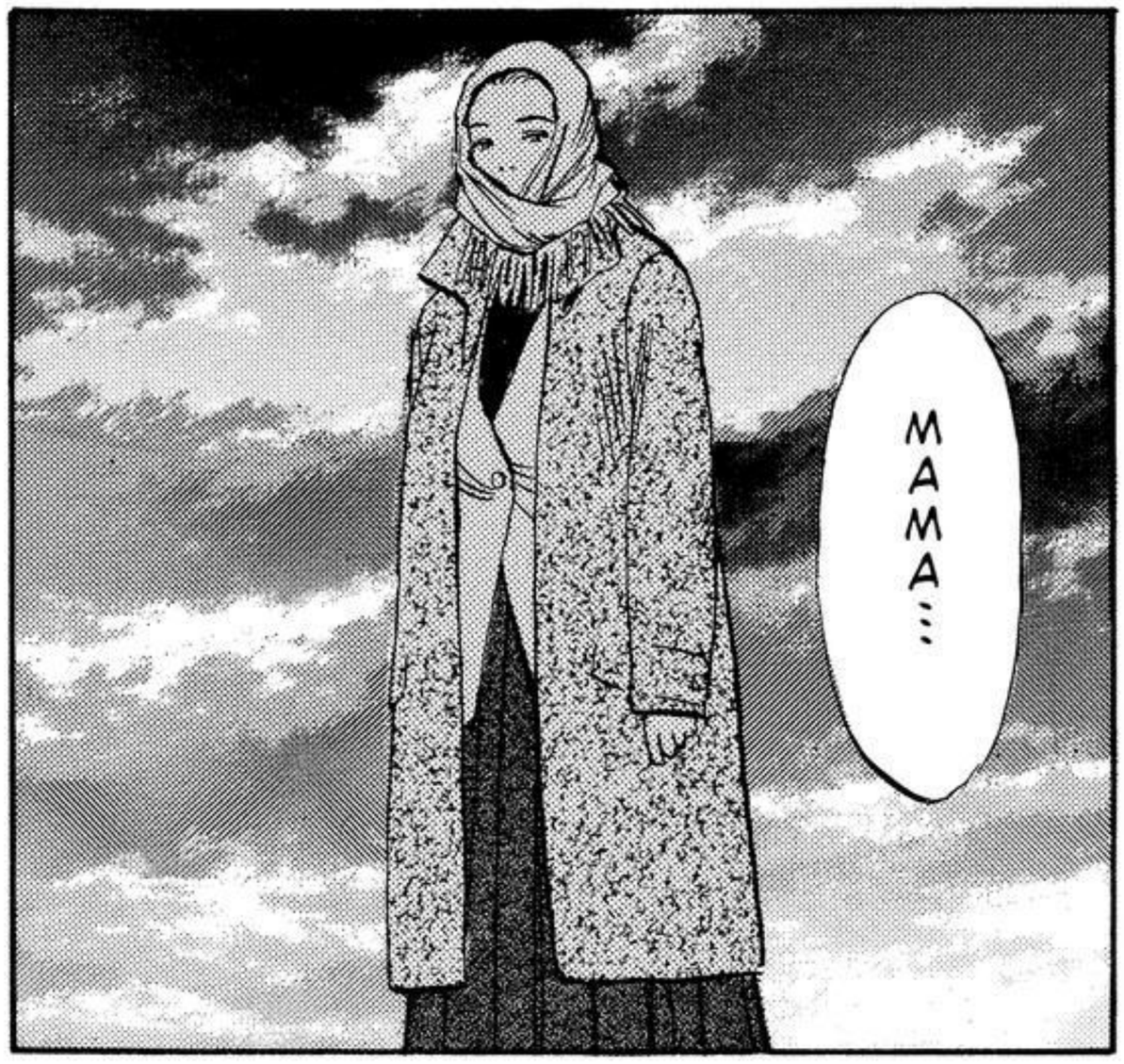


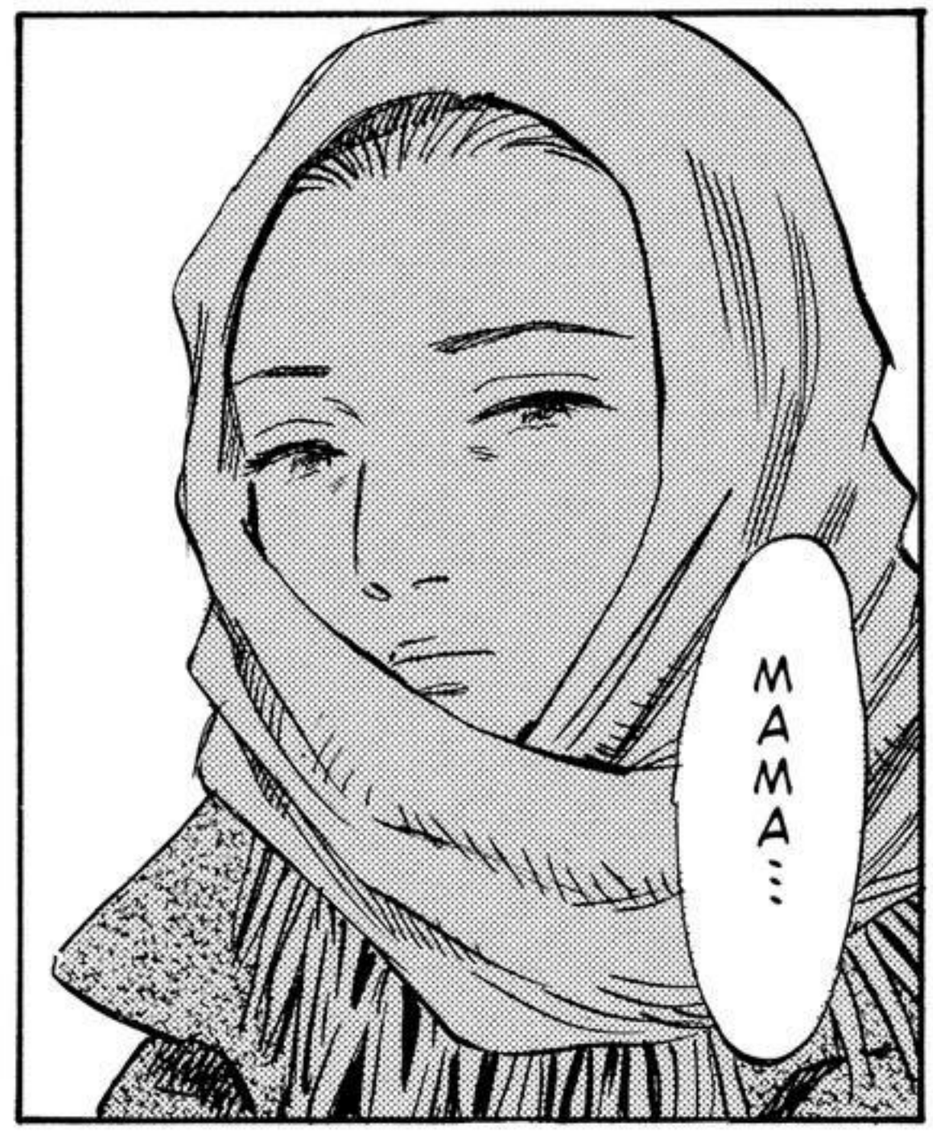




Act 6

NORTH No.2 (Part 3)


MAMA...

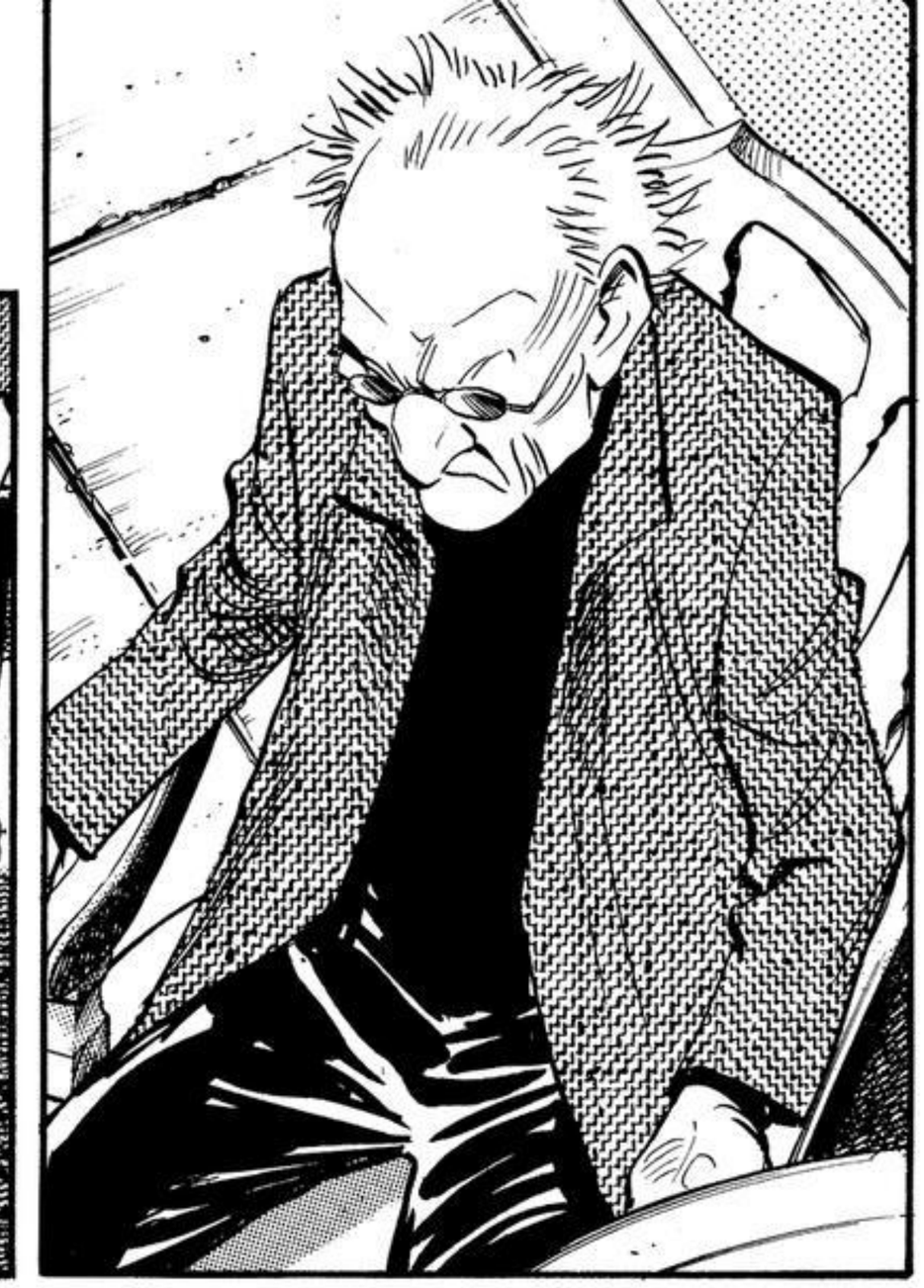

MAMA...

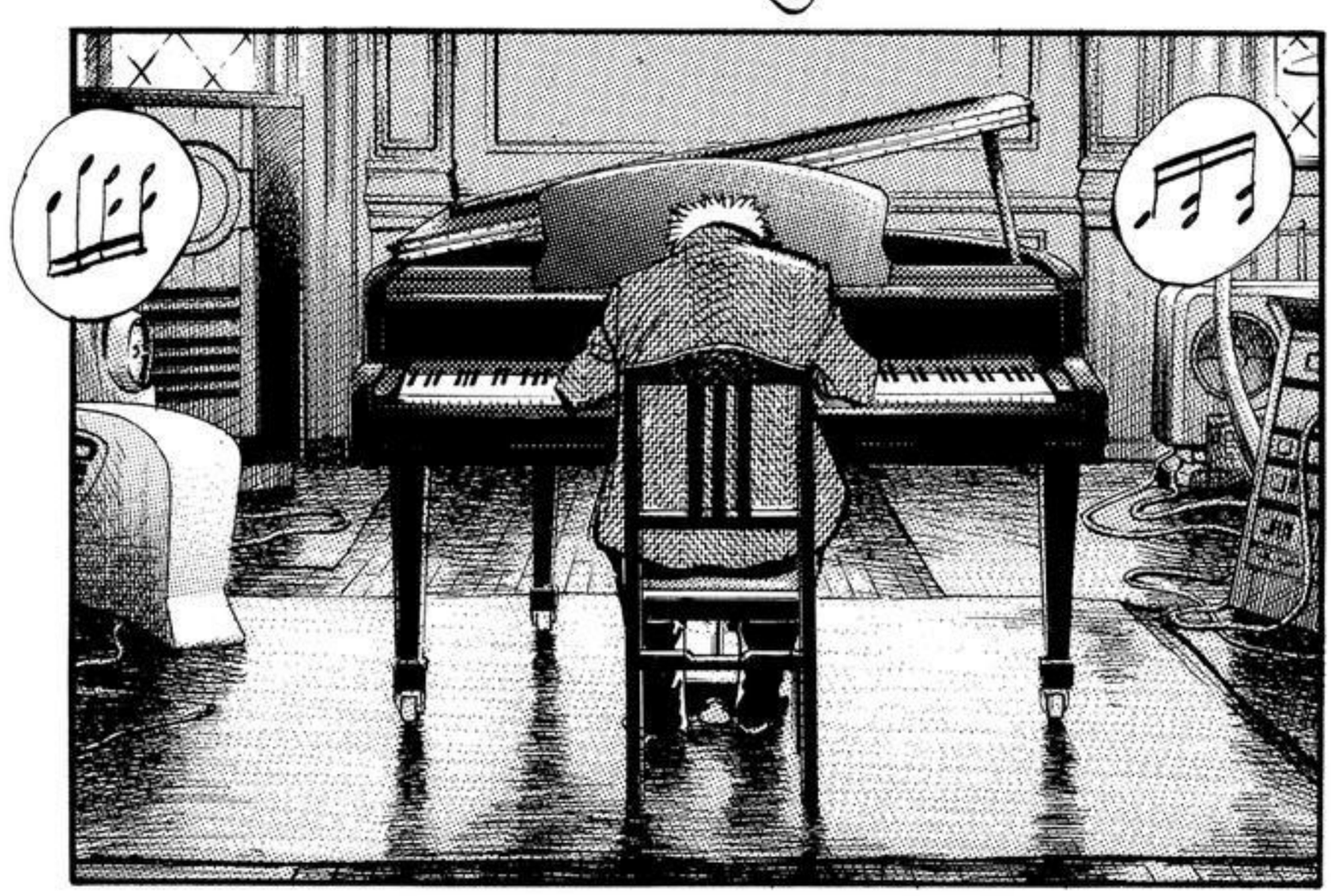
GASP!!

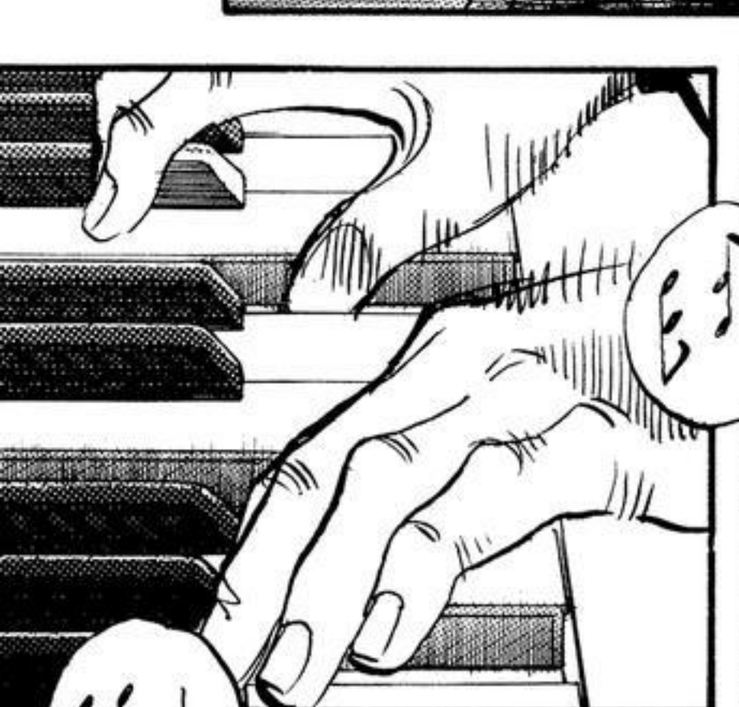
MAMA!!

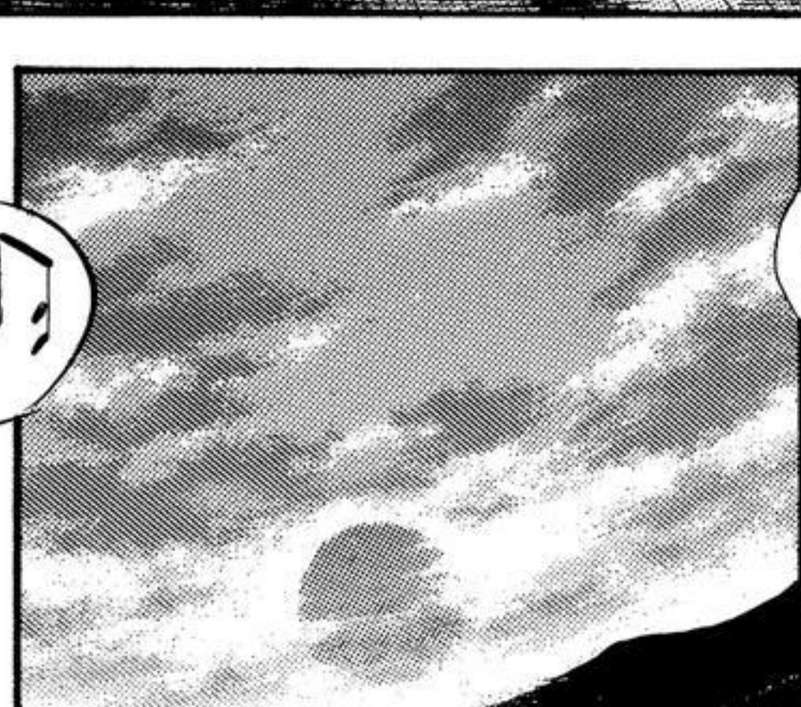
SWAY

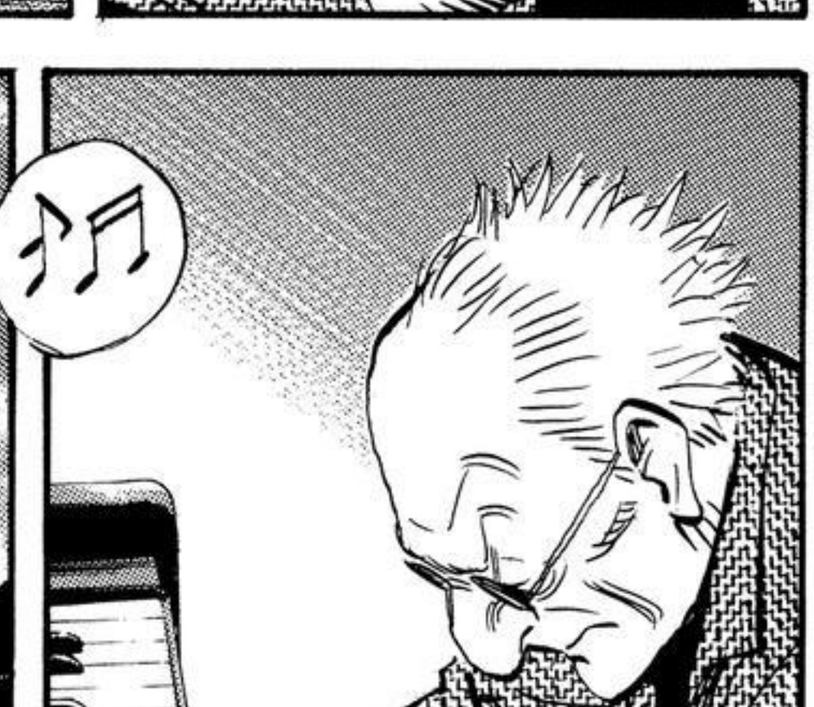
WOBBLE

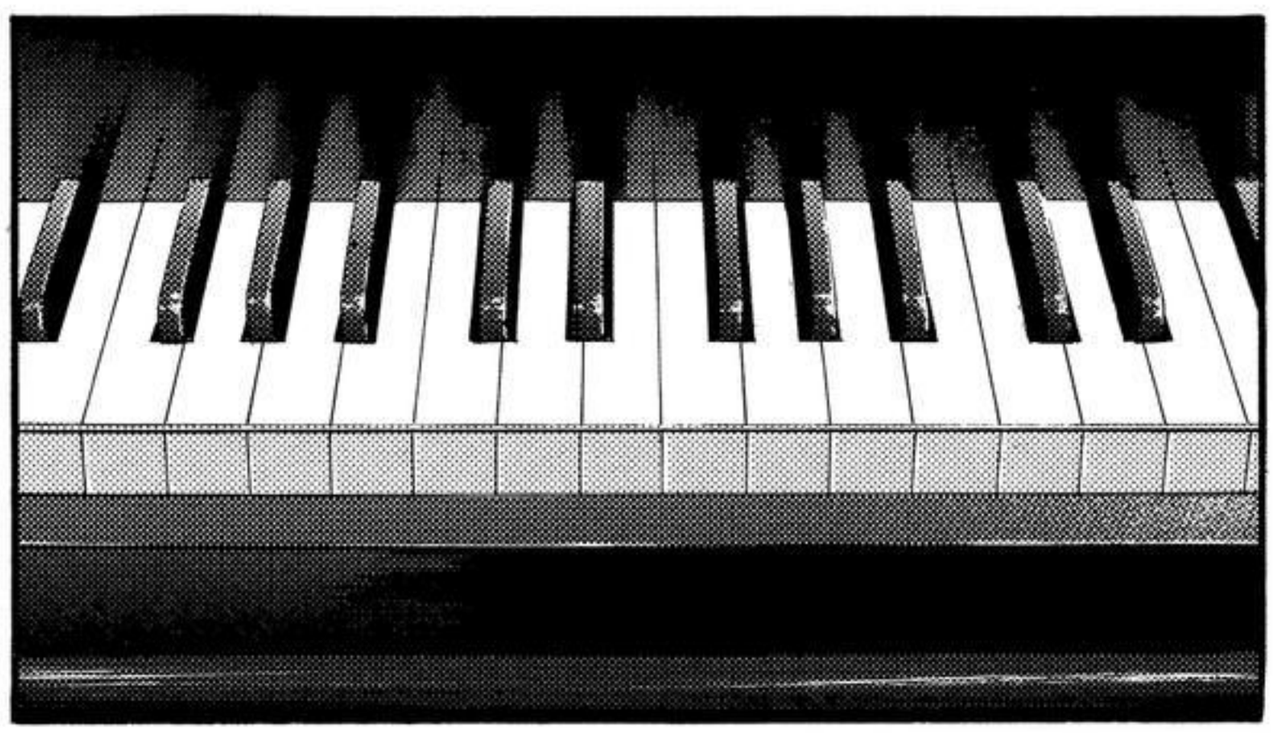




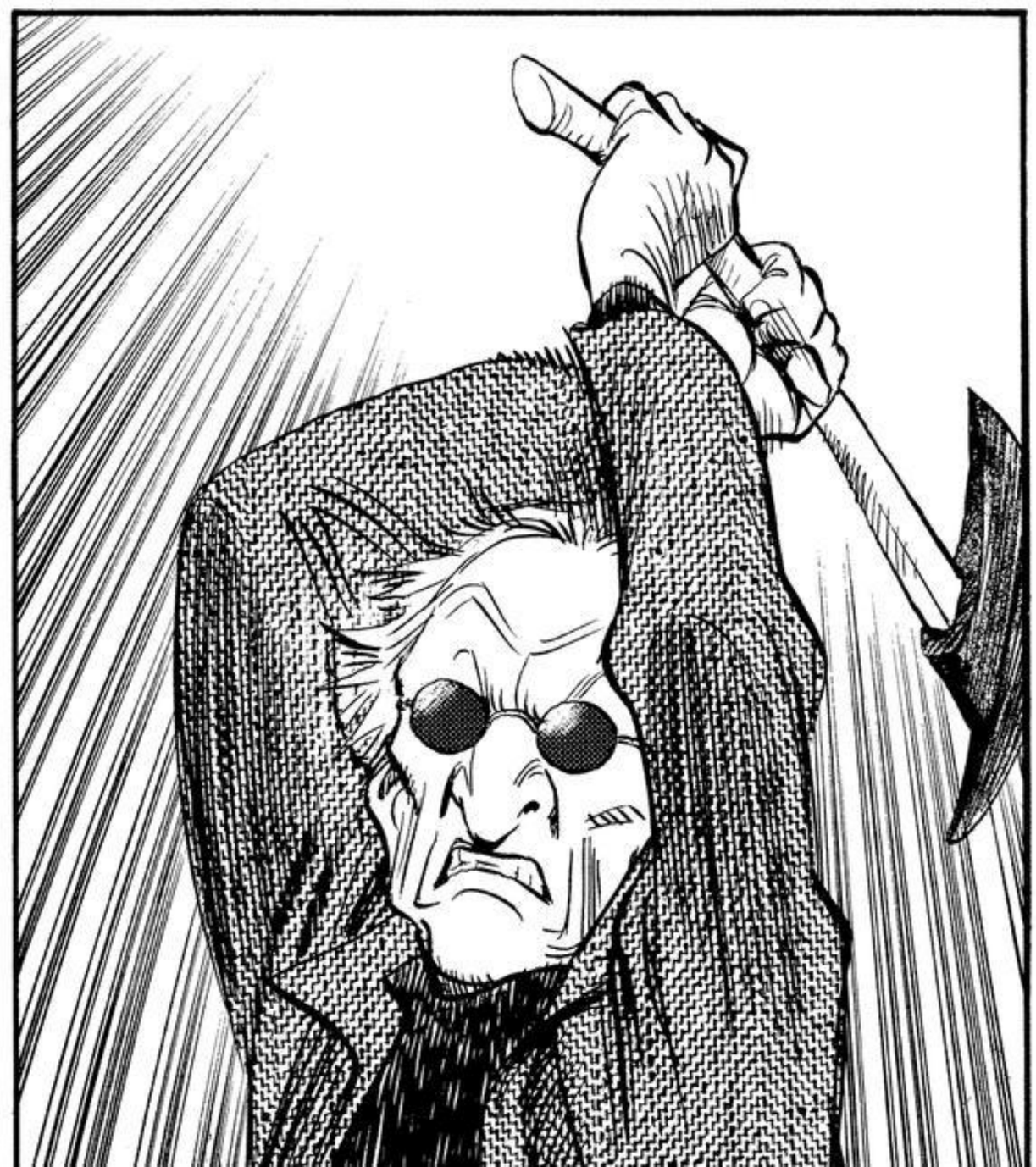


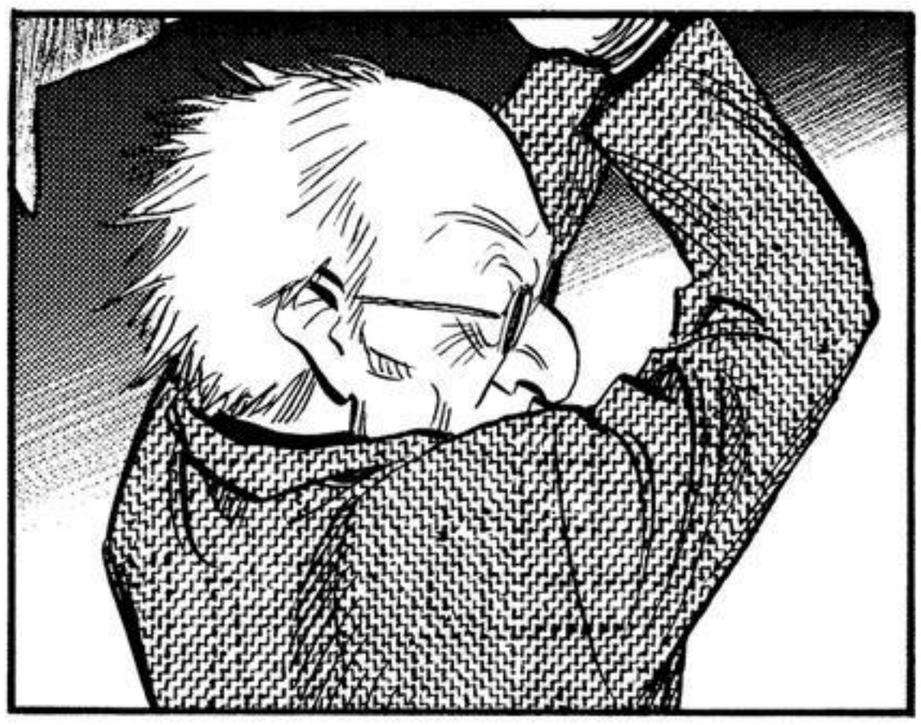






BANG

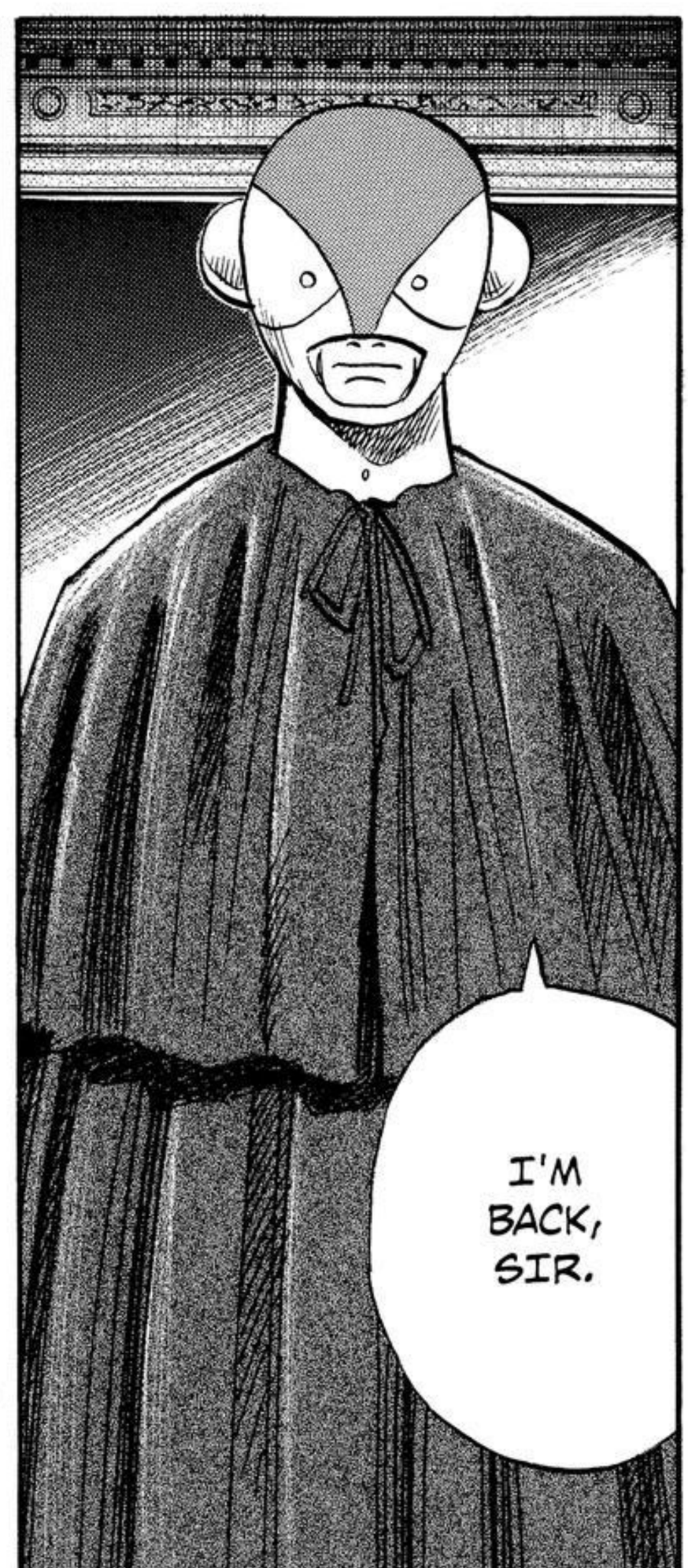




SIR DUNCAN!!

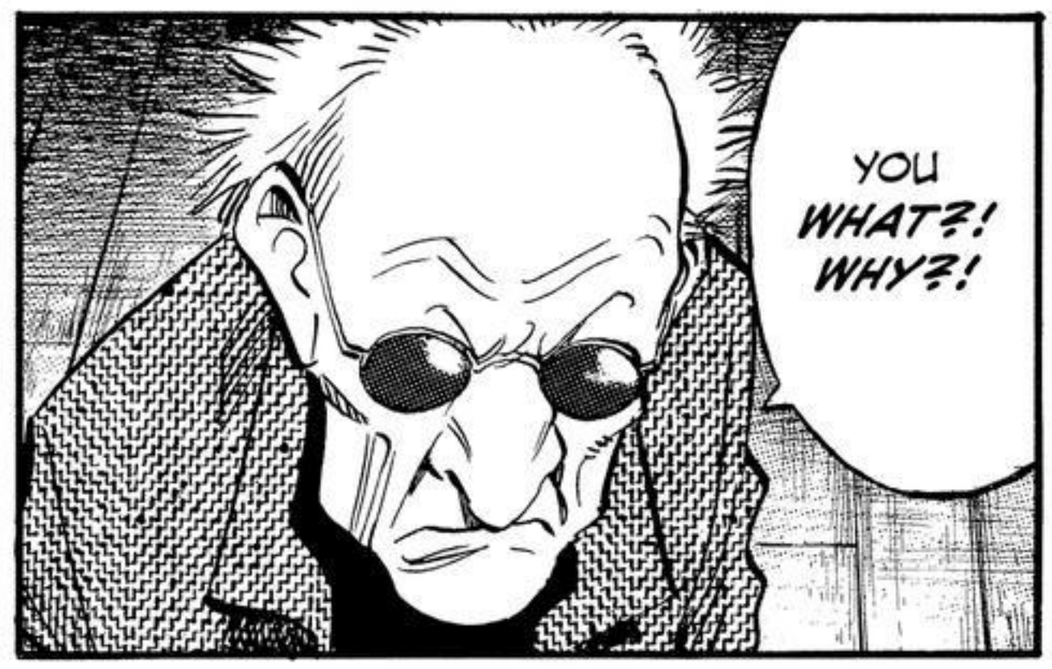
THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO *LEAVE*...

...

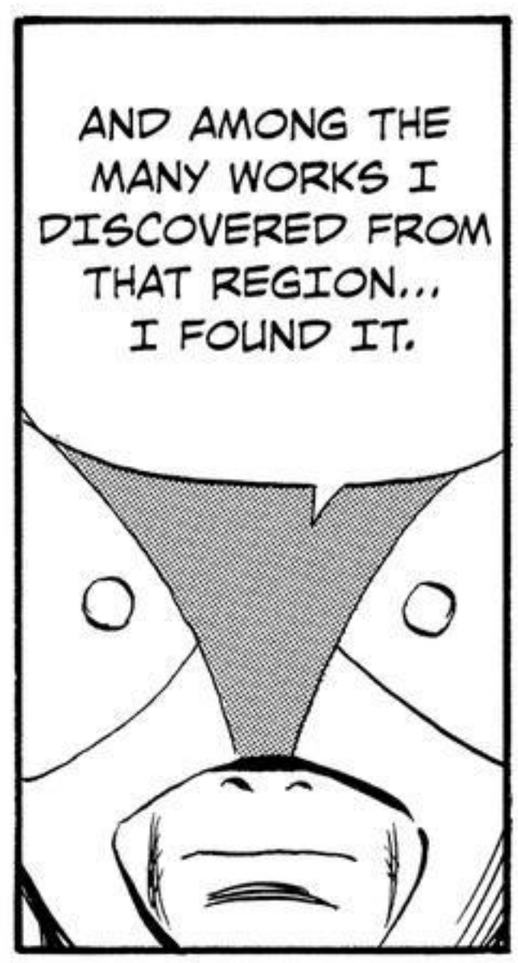

I'M BACK, SIR.

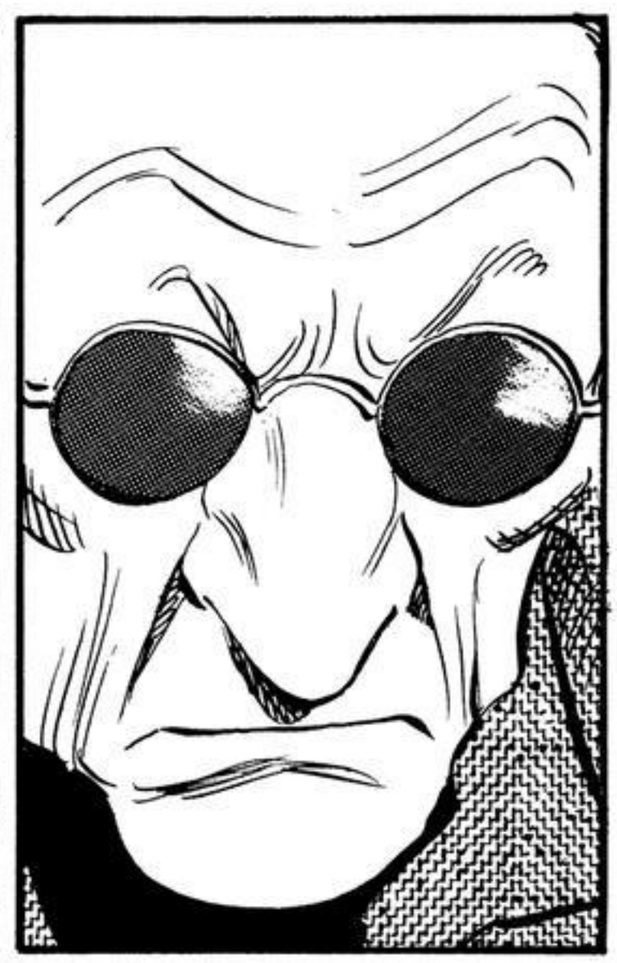
I WENT TO VISIT YOUR BIRTH-PLACE...
I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM BOHEMIA, SIR.

TO COLLECT SOME FOLK SONGS, SIR.


YOU WHAT?! WHY?!

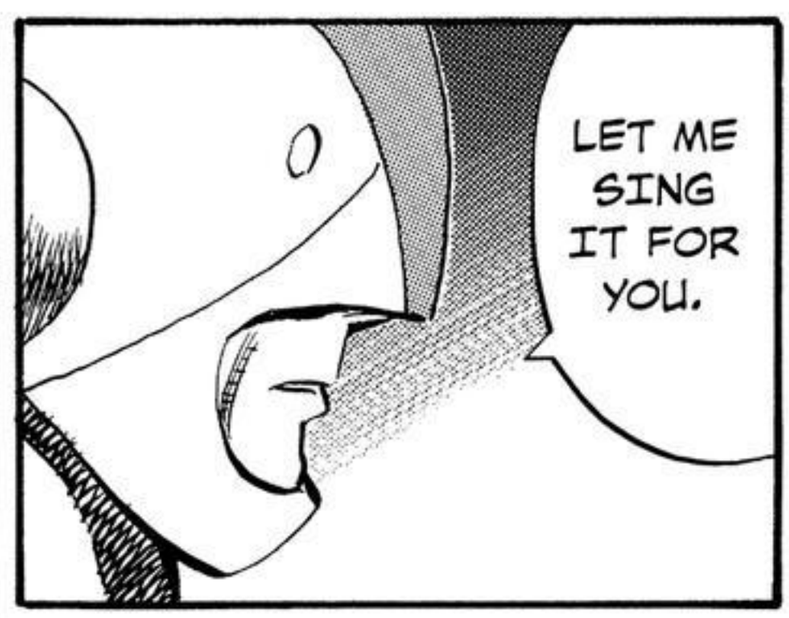
I FOUND THE MELODY YOU HUM IN YOUR SLEEP, SIR.

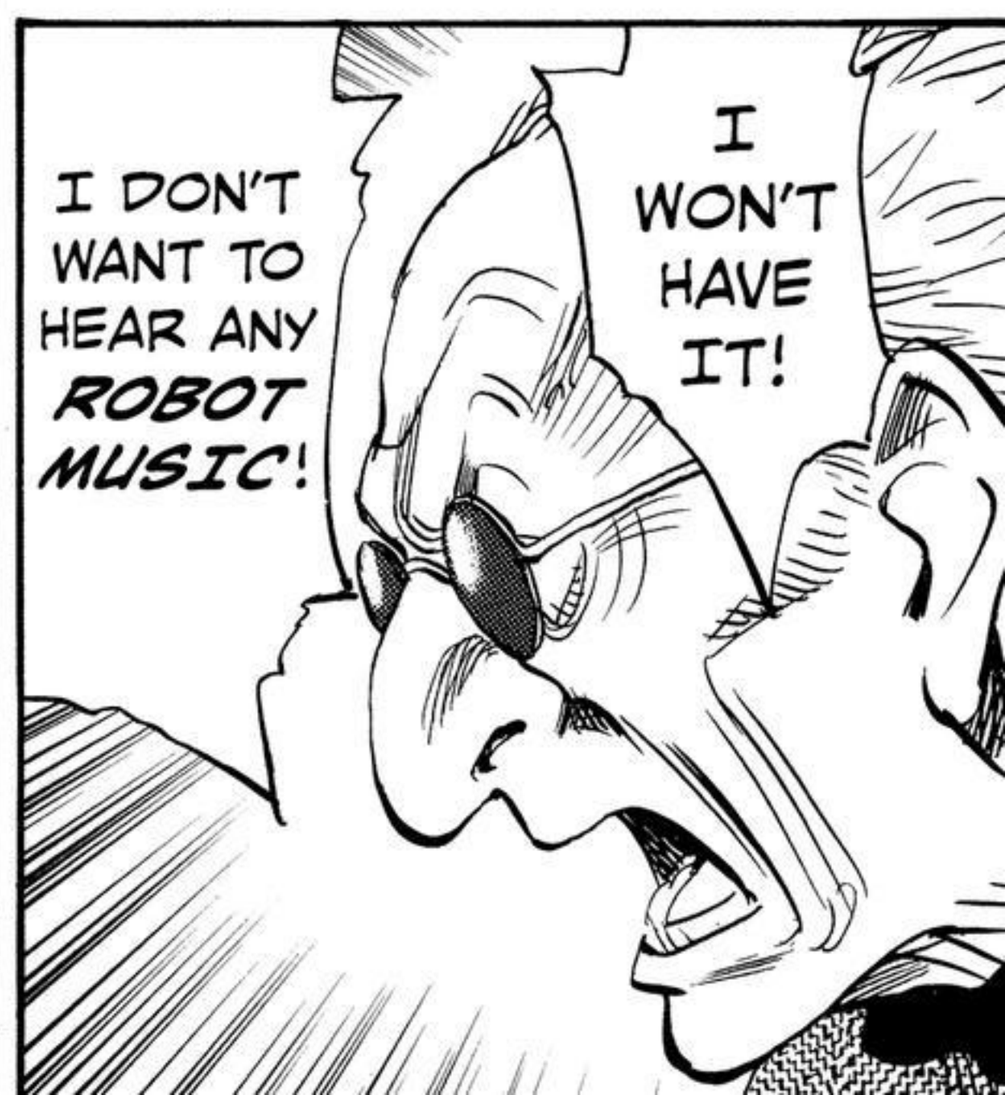

AND AMONG THE MANY WORKS I DISCOVERED FROM THAT REGION... I FOUND IT.

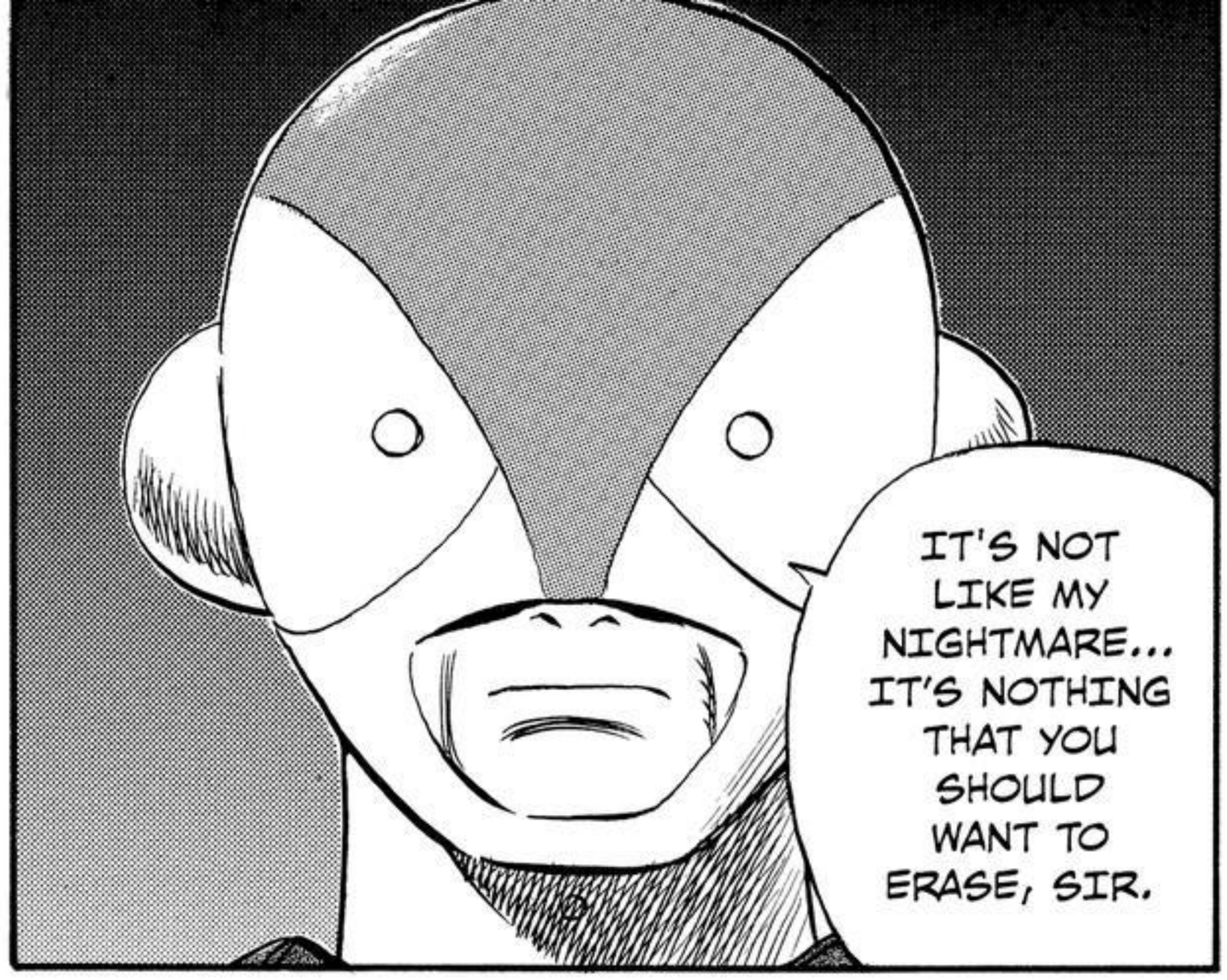


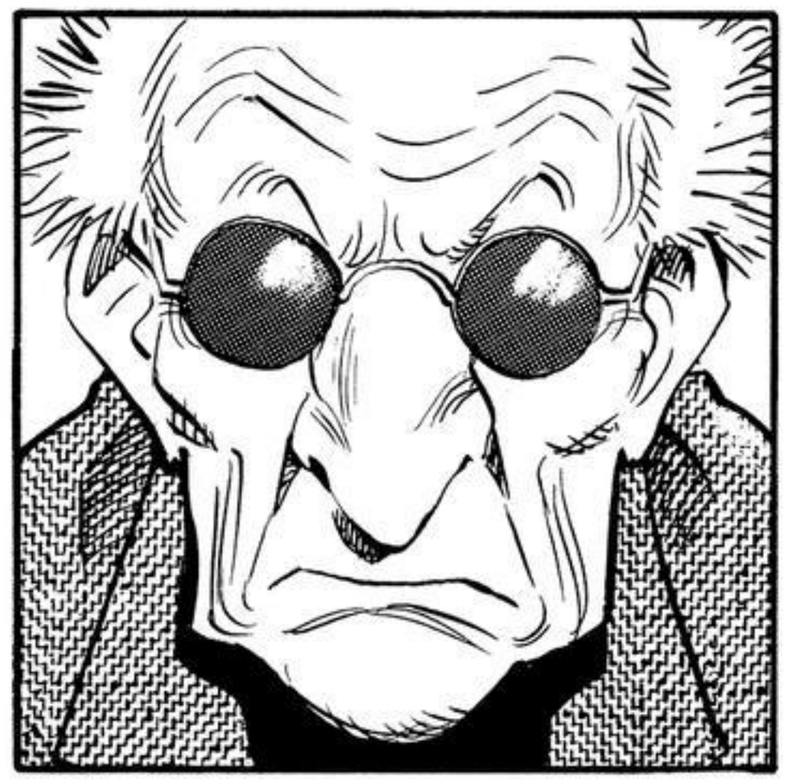
BUT, SIR... YOUR DREAM IS NOT A NIGHTMARE.

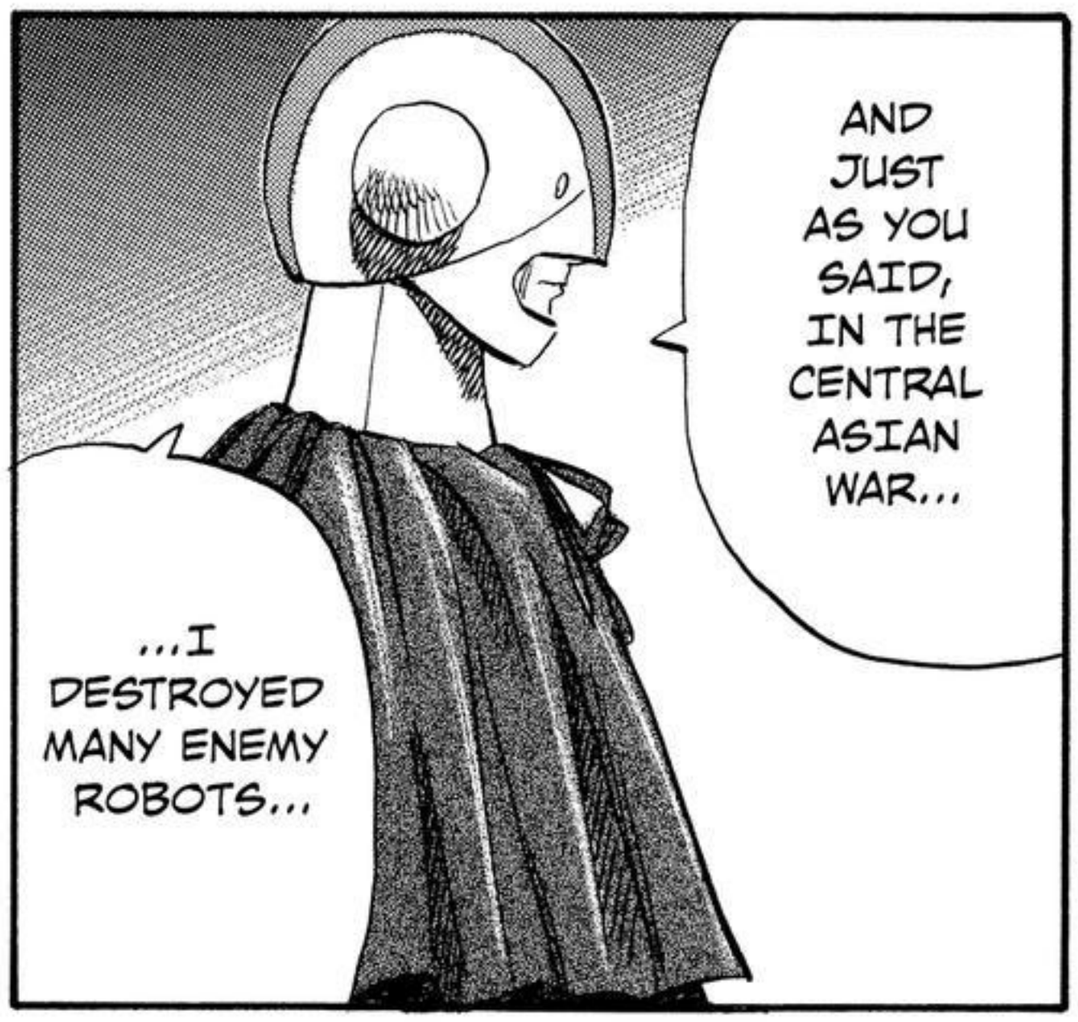
THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE HUMANS WANT TO FORGET!
HOW DARE YOU GET INVOLVED IN MY NIGHT-MARES!!

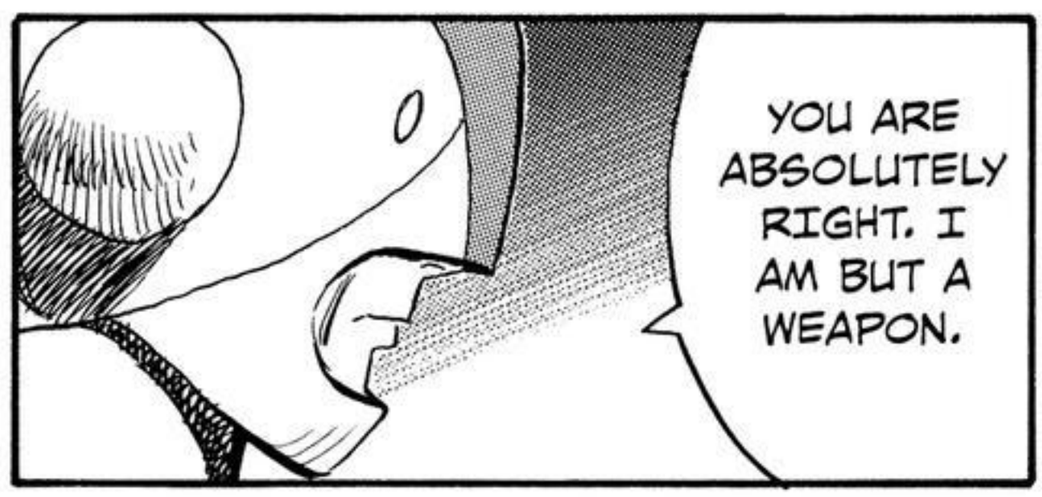

LET ME SING IT FOR YOU.


I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY ROBOT MUSIC!
I WON'T HAVE IT!

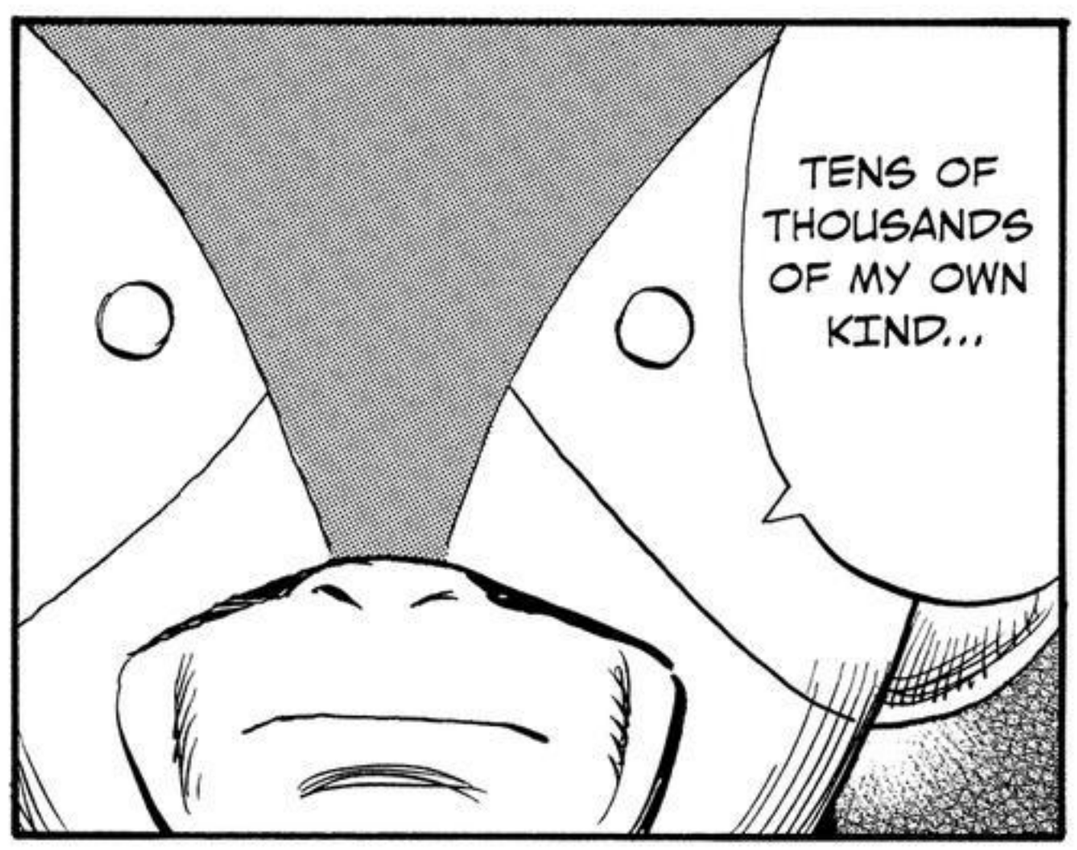

IT'S NOT LIKE MY NIGHTMARE... IT'S NOTHING THAT YOU SHOULD WANT TO ERASE, SIR.

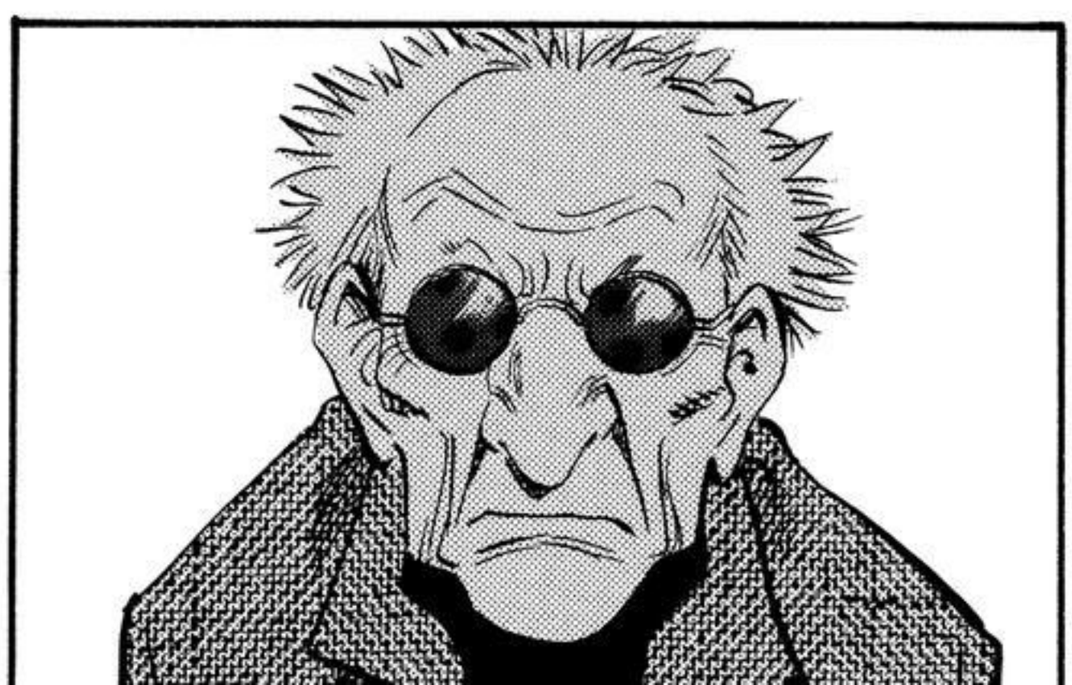


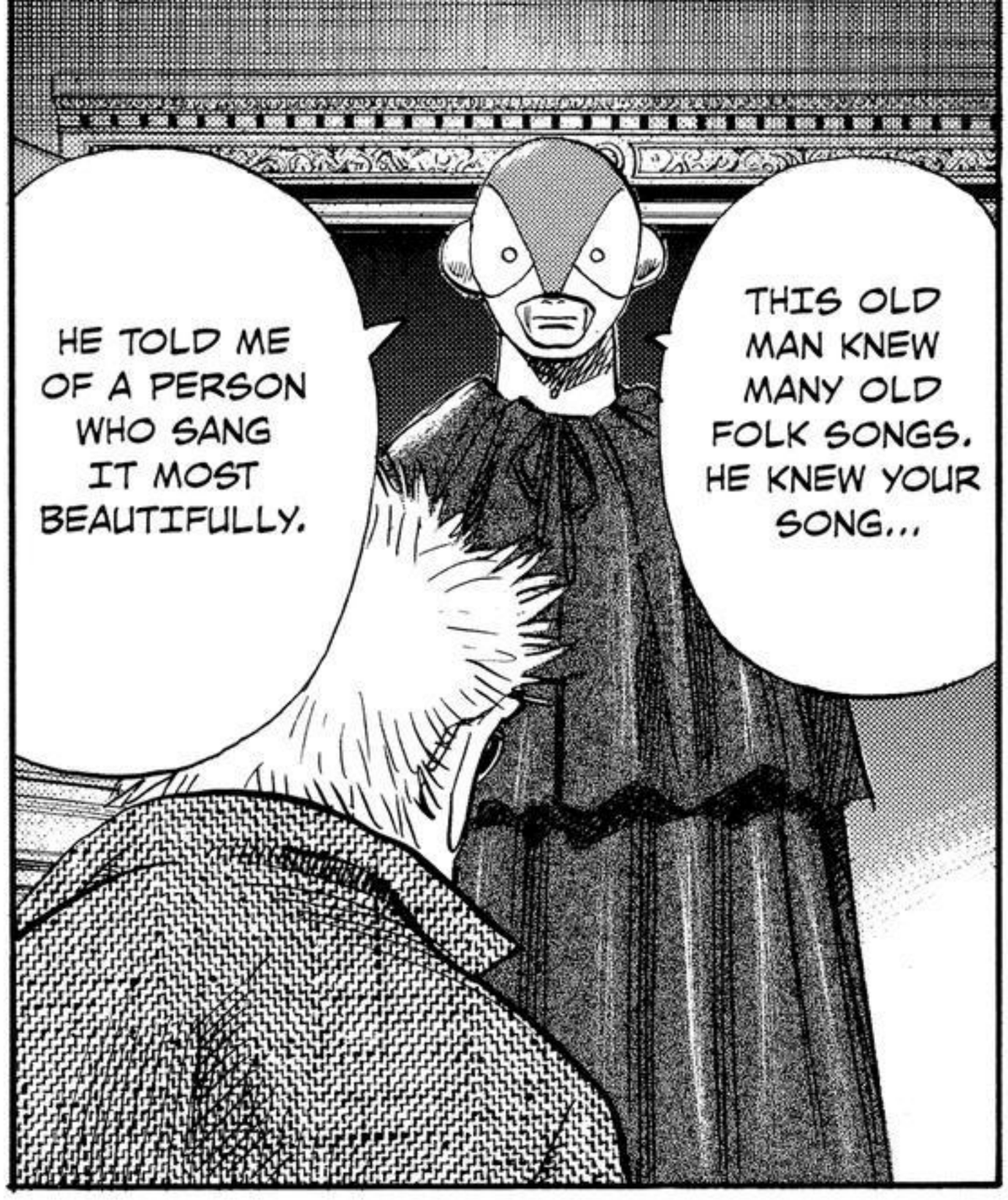

AND JUST AS YOU SAID, IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN WAR...
...I DESTROYED MANY ENEMY ROBOTS...

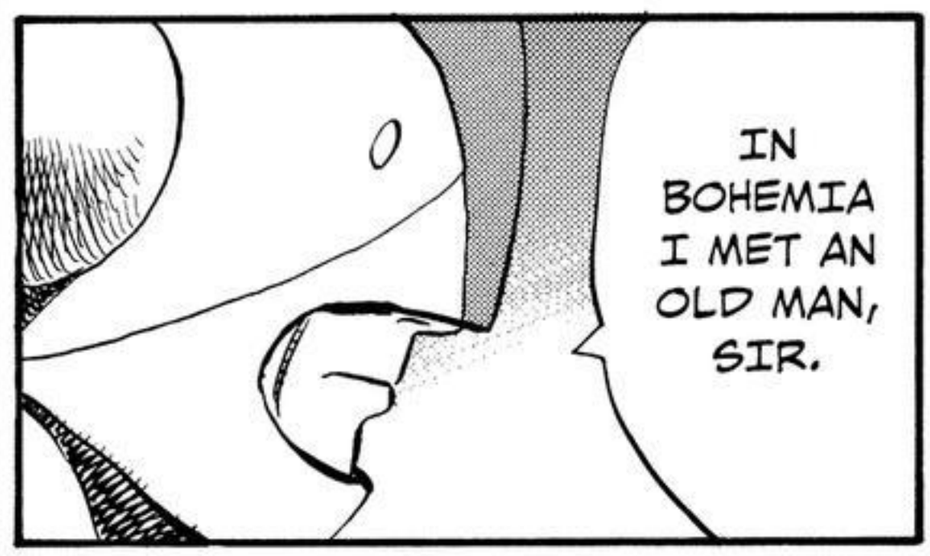

YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. I AM BUT A WEAPON.

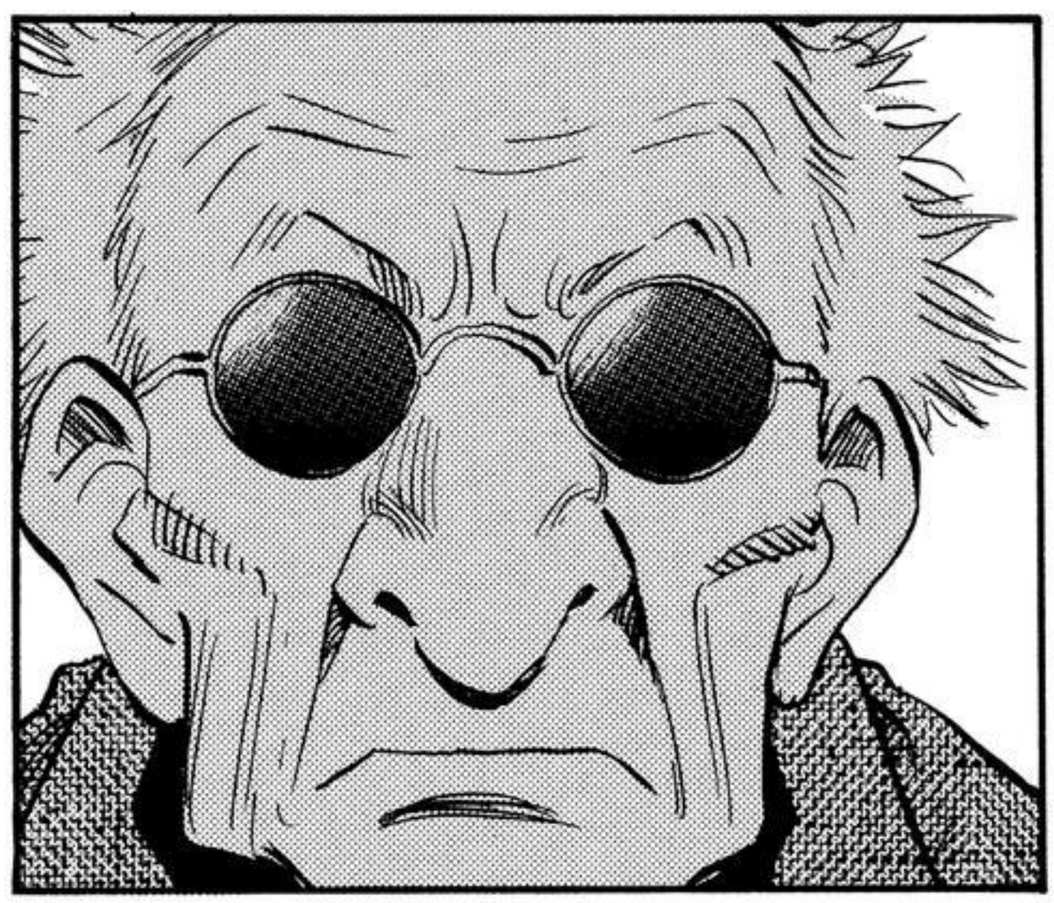
AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE KILLINGS IS PLAYED BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN IN MY ARTIFICIAL BRAIN.

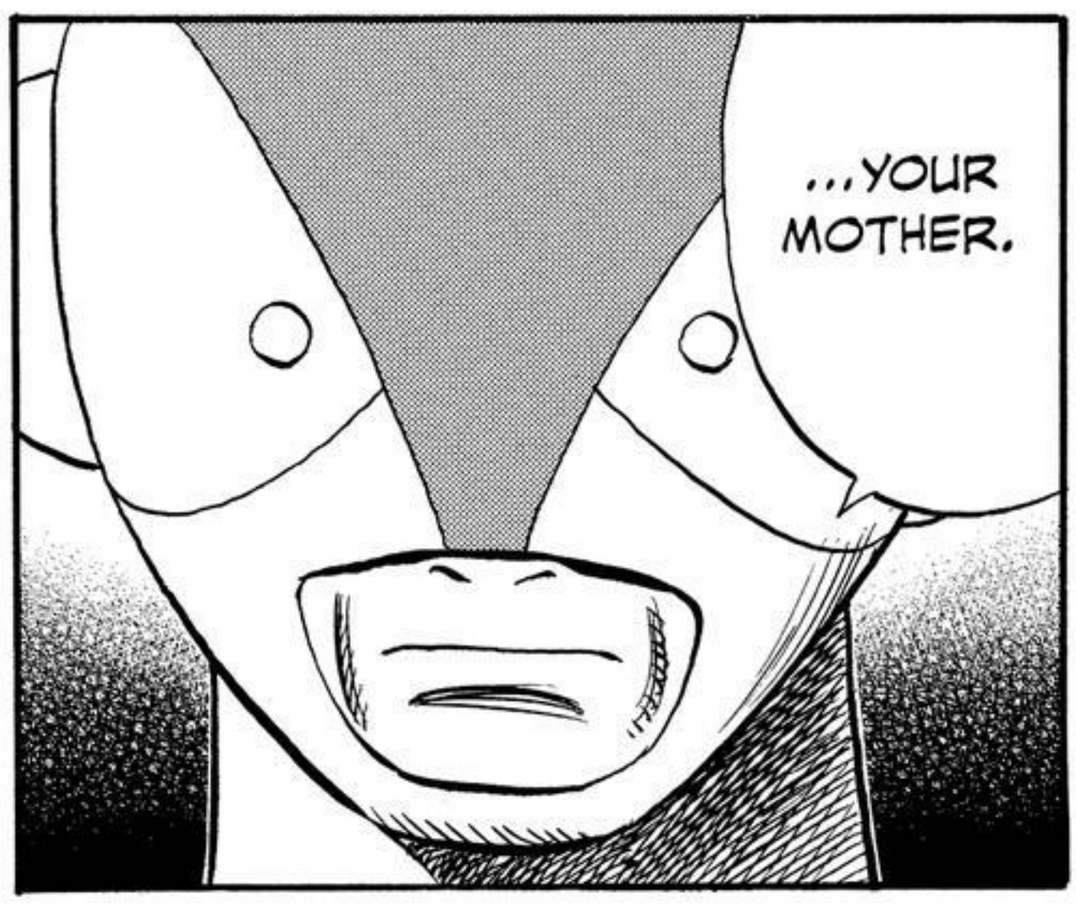

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MY OWN KIND...



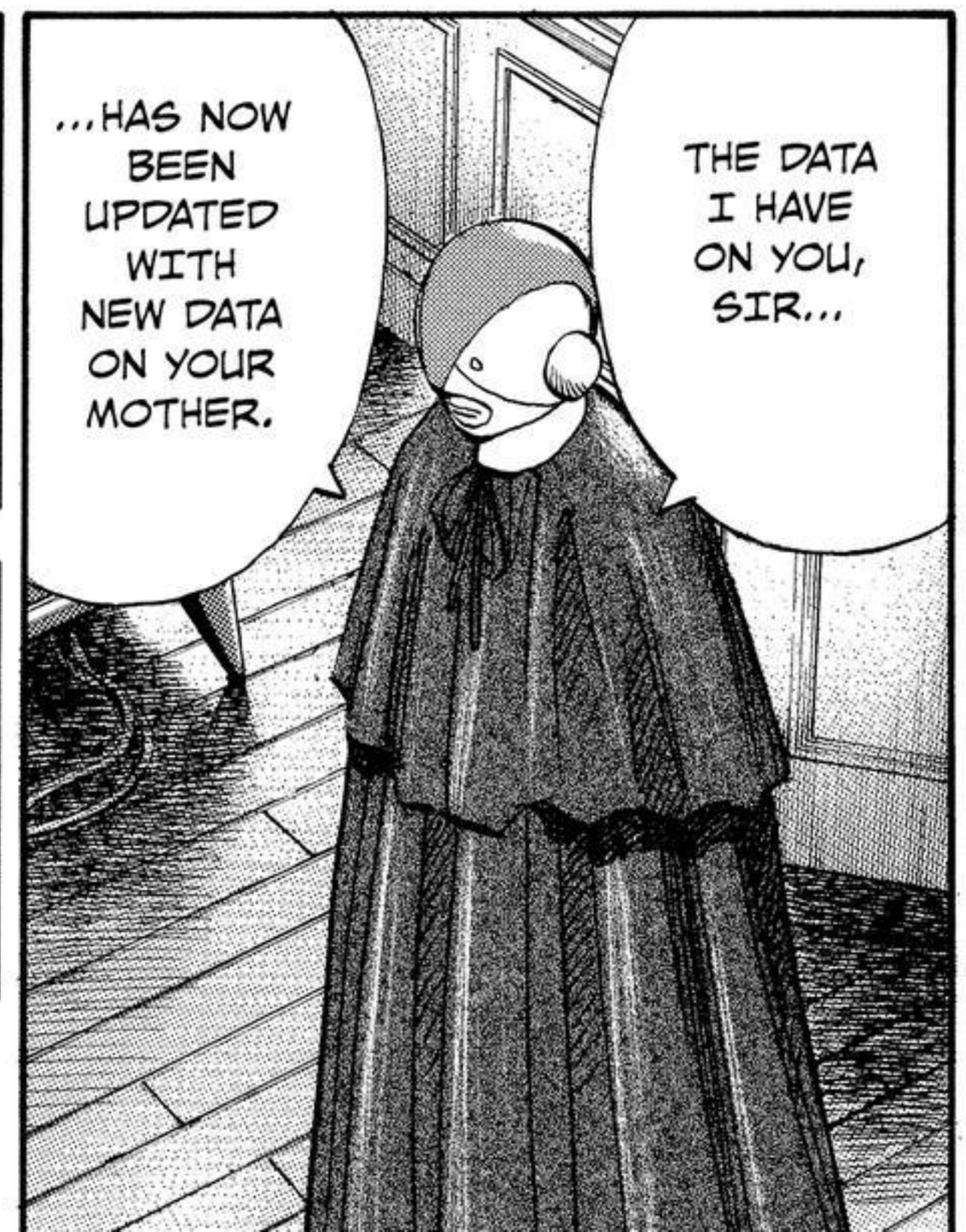

HE TOLD ME OF A PERSON WHO SANG IT MOST BEAUTIFULLY.
THIS OLD MAN KNEW MANY OLD FOLK SONGS. HE KNEW YOUR SONG...

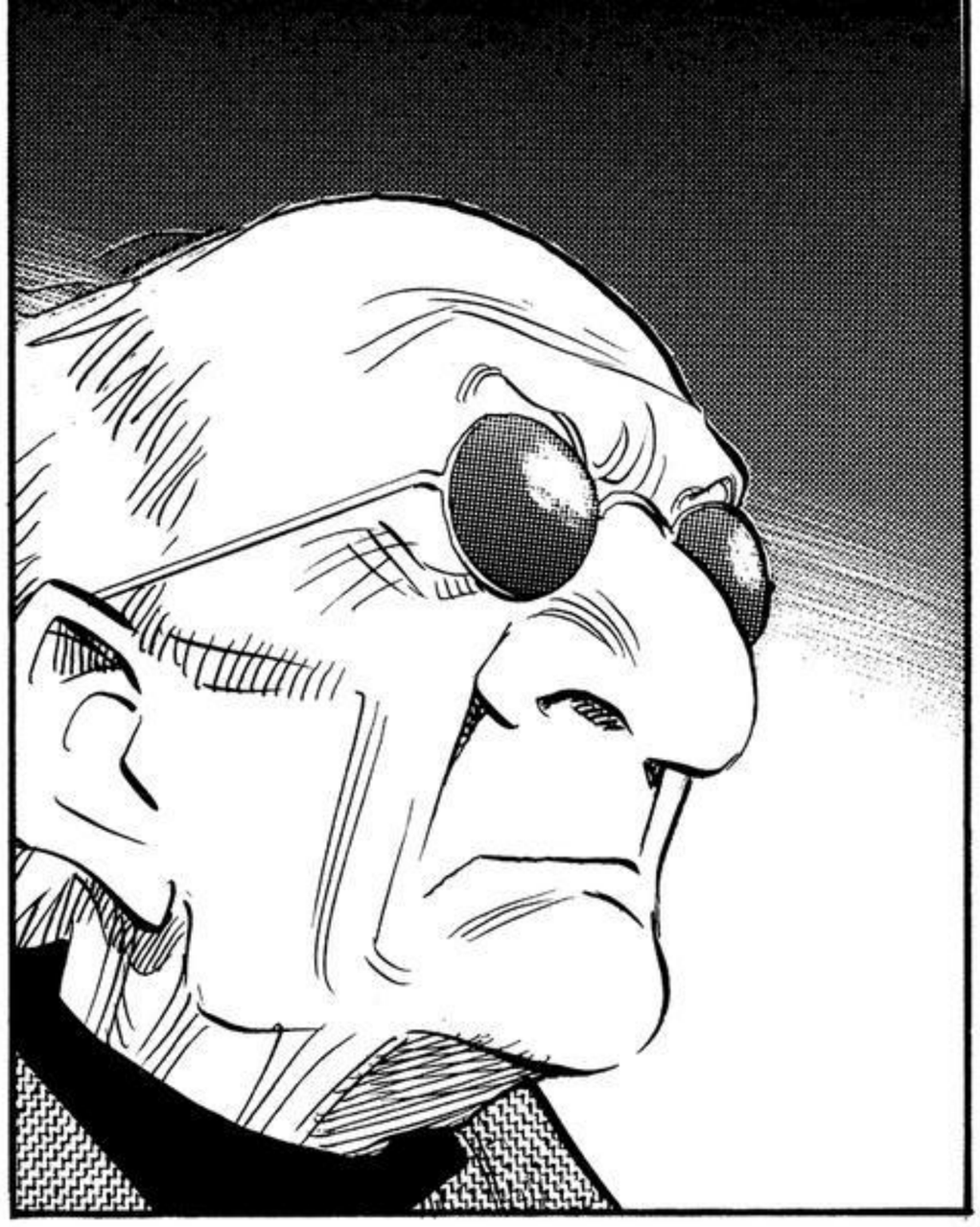

IN BOHEMIA I MET AN OLD MAN, SIR.

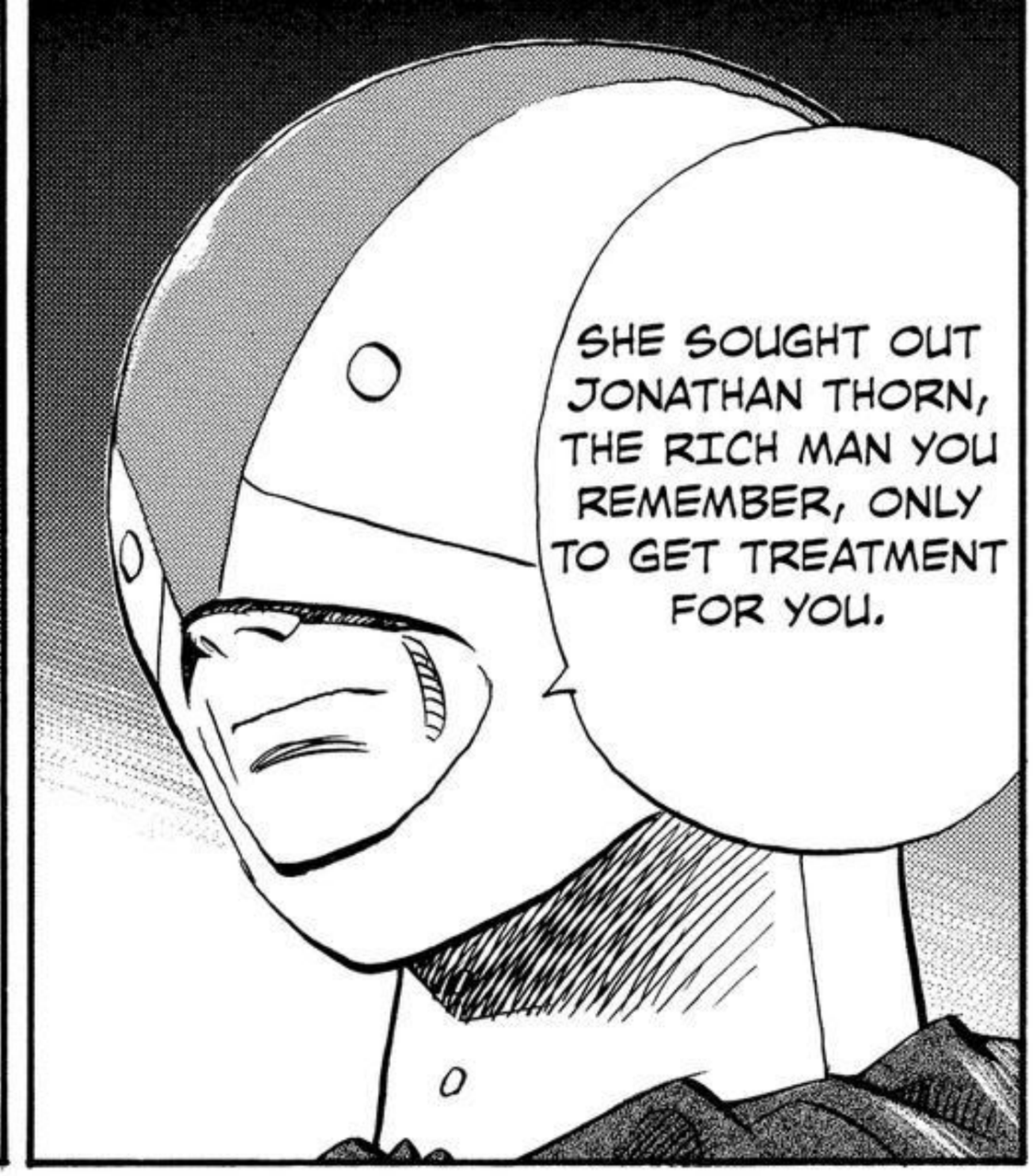


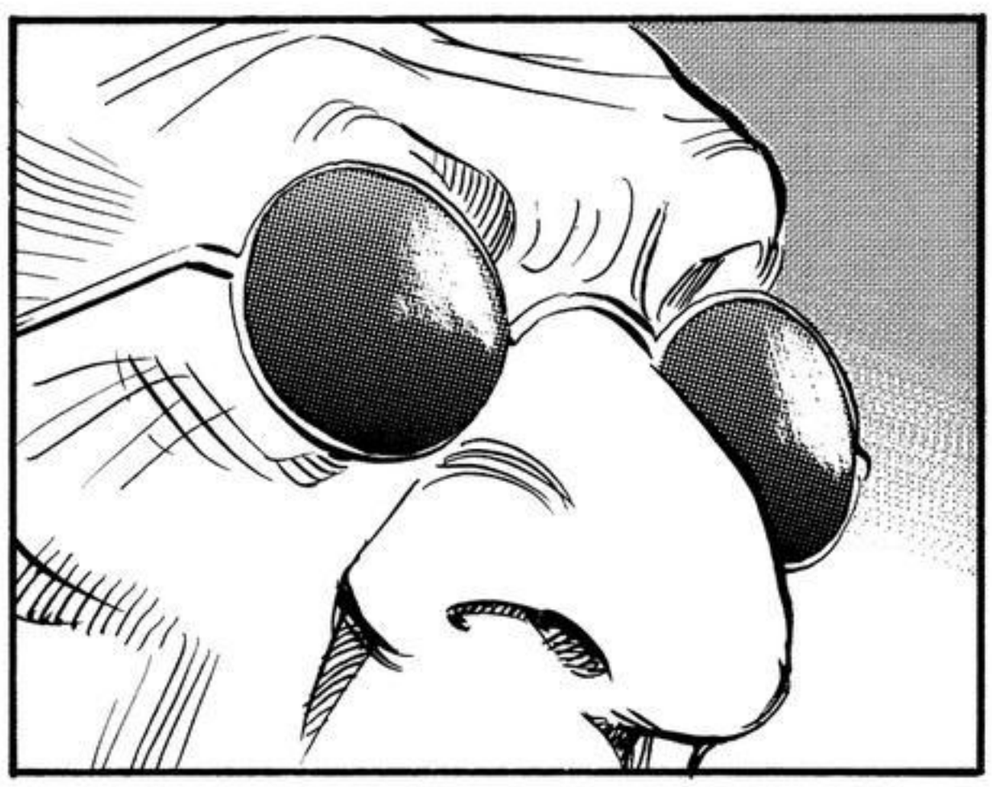

...YOUR MOTHER.

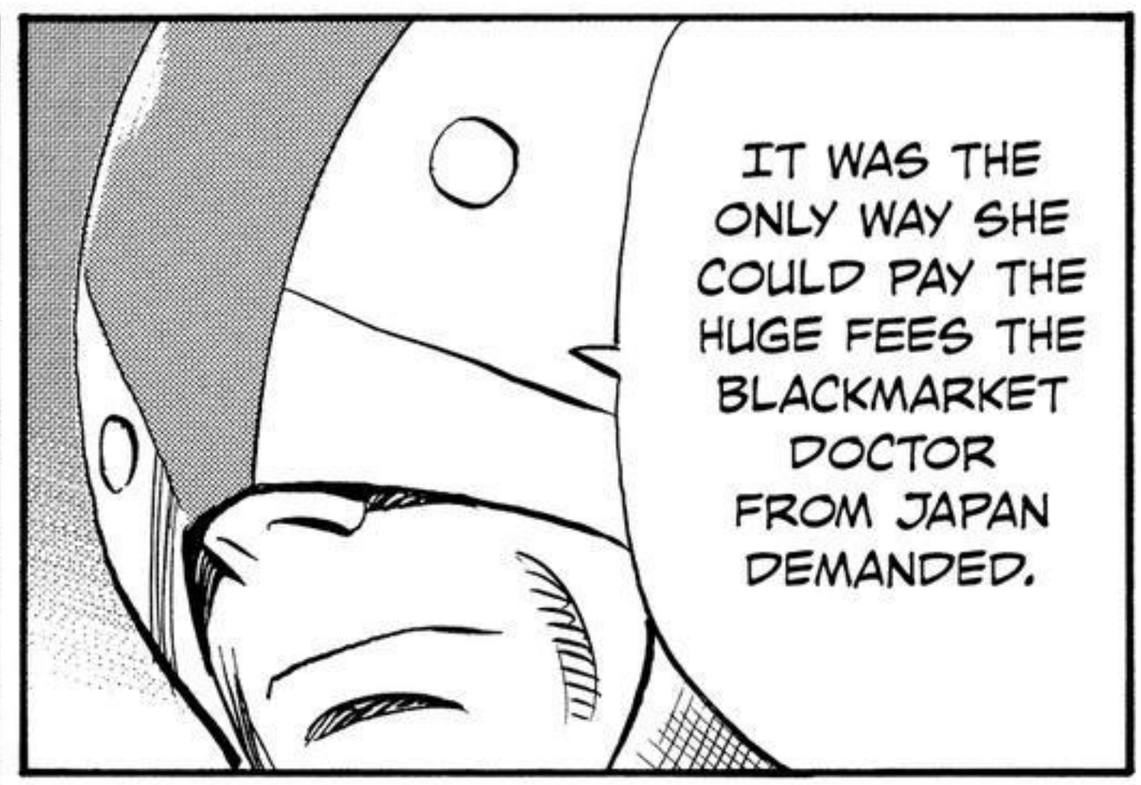
YOUR MOTHER DID NOT ABANDON HER SICKLY CHILD.

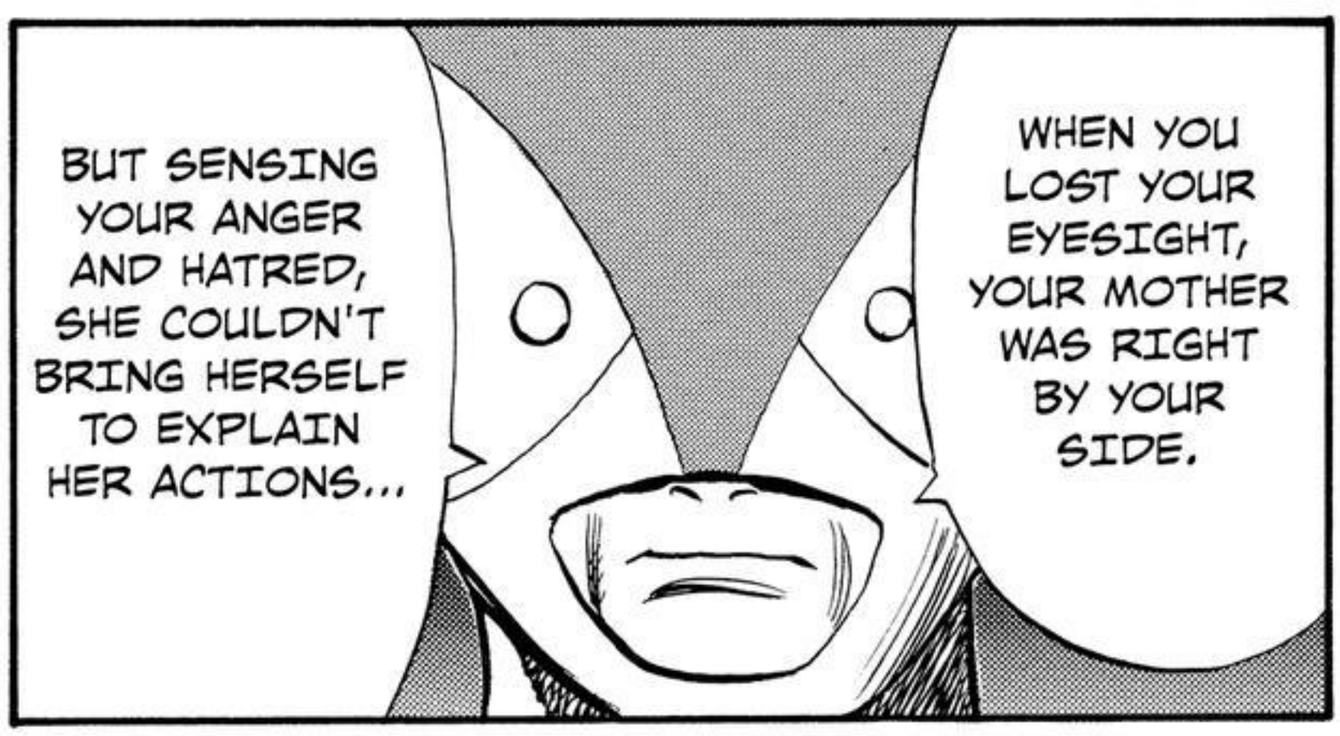

...HAS NOW BEEN UPDATED WITH NEW DATA ON YOUR MOTHER.
THE DATA I HAVE ON YOU, SIR...




SHE SOUGHT OUT JONATHAN THORN, THE RICH MAN YOU REMEMBER, ONLY TO GET TREATMENT FOR YOU.




IT WAS THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD PAY THE HUGE FEES THE BLACKMARKET DOCTOR FROM JAPAN DEMANDED.


BUT SENSING YOUR ANGER AND HATRED, SHE COULDN'T BRING HERSELF TO EXPLAIN HER ACTIONS...
WHEN YOU LOST YOUR EYESIGHT, YOUR MOTHER WAS RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE.

YOU WERE NEVER ABANDONED, SIR.

TH-THAT'S *RIDICU-LOUS*!

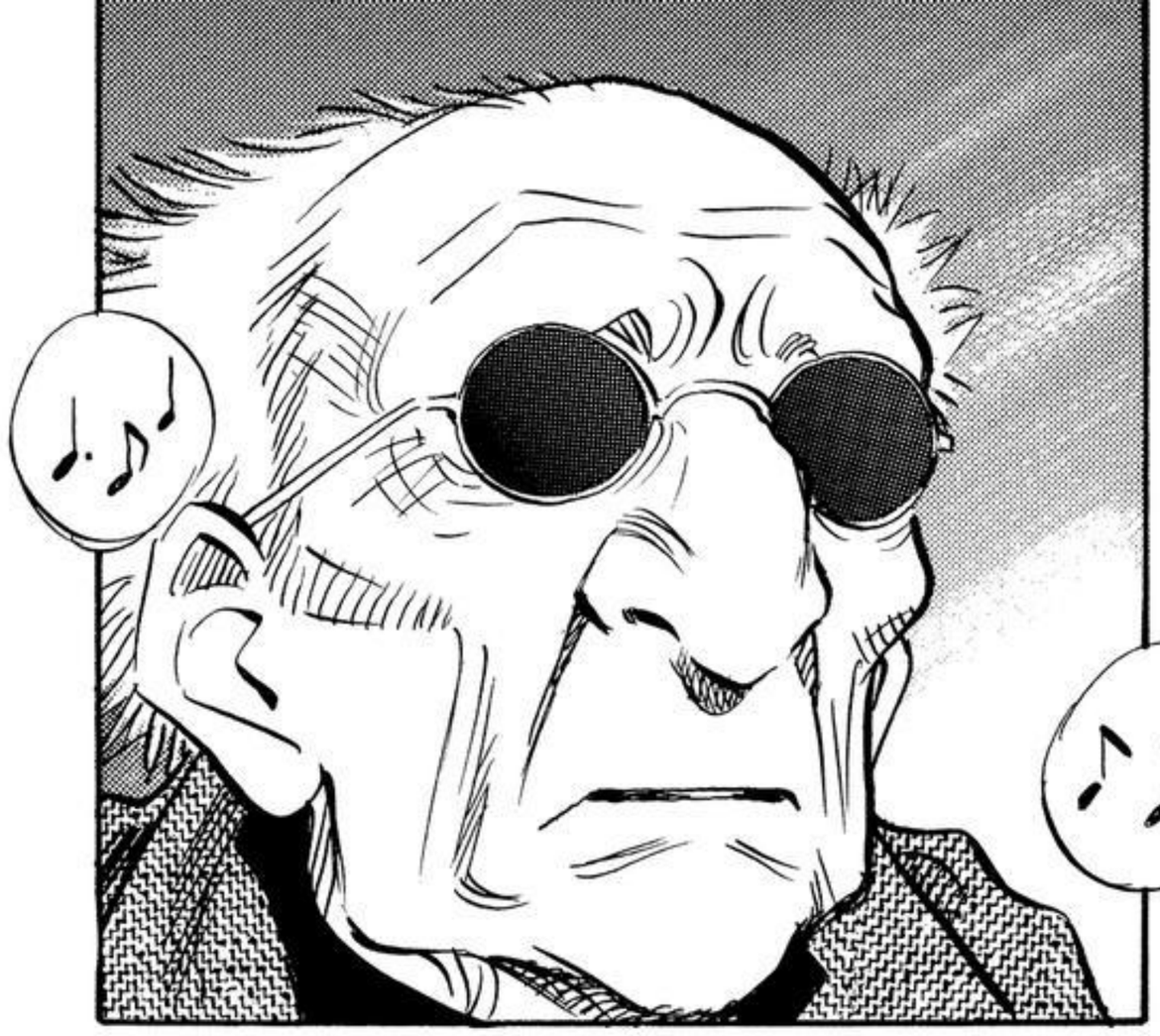
I BELIEVE YOU'RE SKIPPING OVER A VERY IMPORTANT MEMORY FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD.

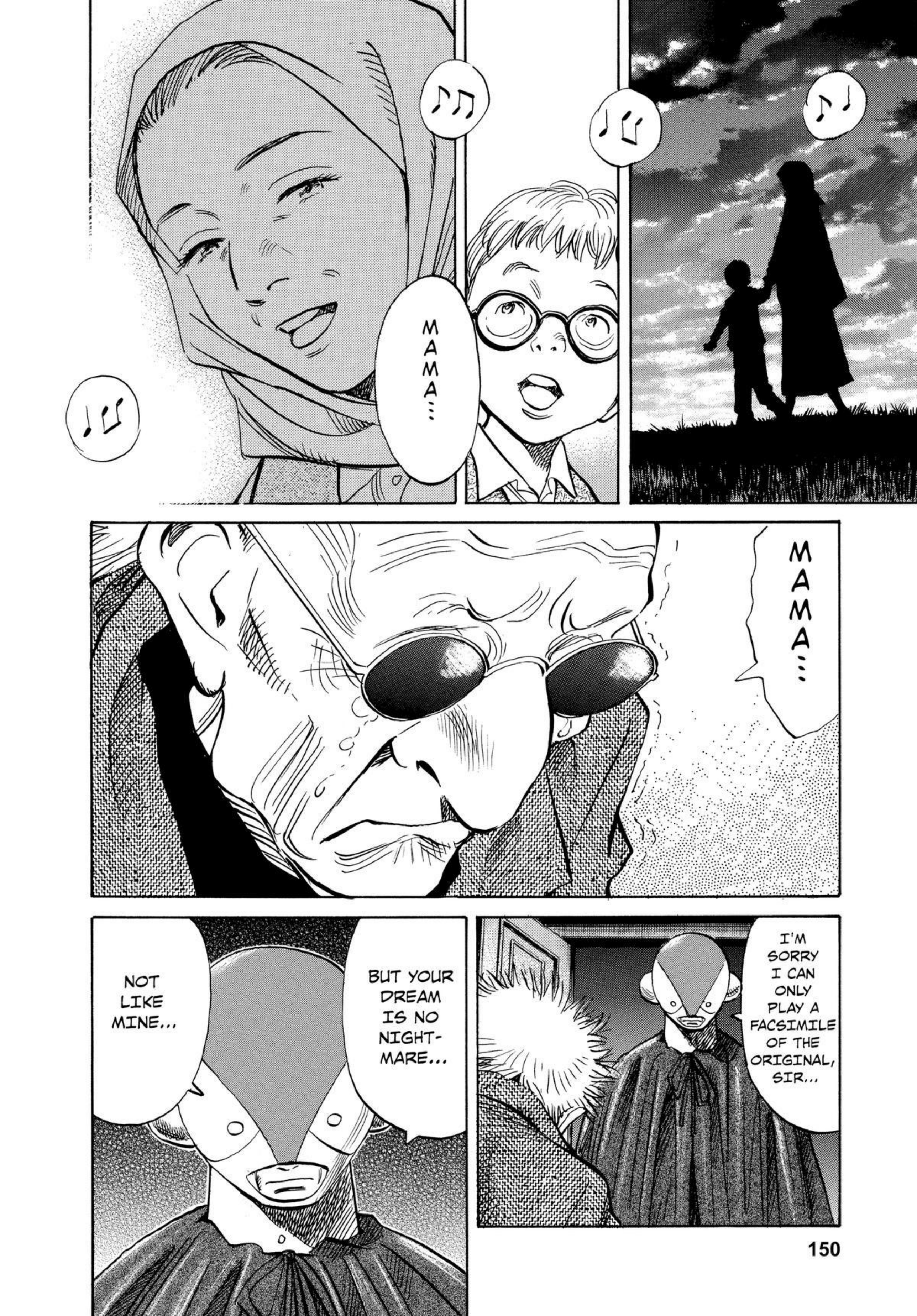
IT'S THE TRUTH, SIR.

...HOW YOU AND YOUR MOTHER USED TO HOLD HANDS WHILE WATCHING THE SETTING SUN...

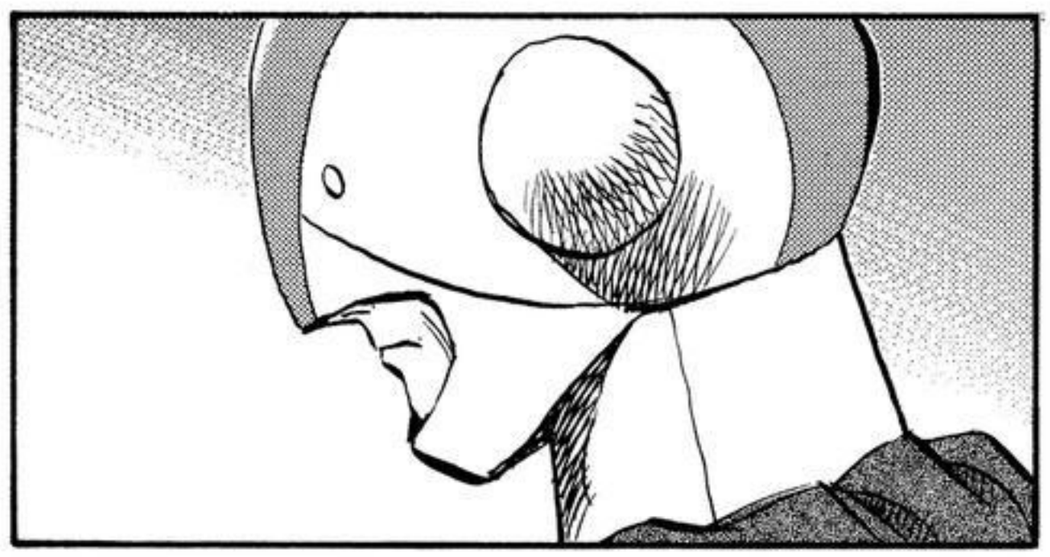
THE OLD MAN TOLD ME...

...HOW YOU USED TO SING THIS SONG... ALLOW ME TO HUM THE MELODY...

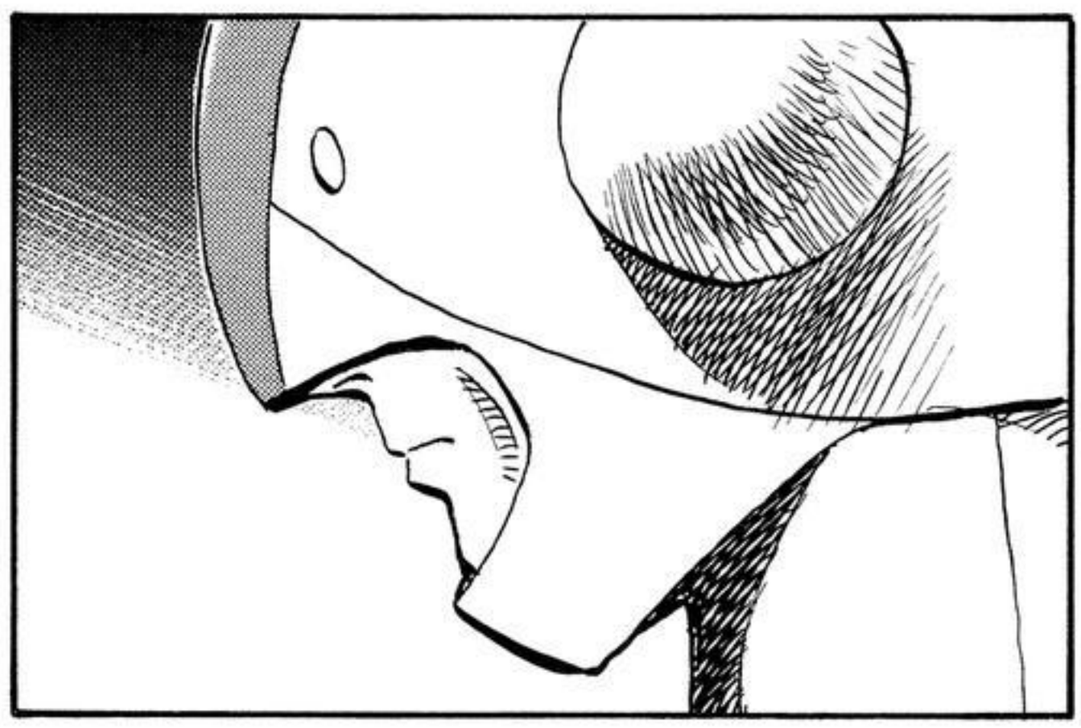



♪♪
♪♪
♪♪
MAMA...
MAMA...
NOT LIKE MINE...
BUT YOUR DREAM IS NO NIGHT-MARE...
I'M SORRY I CAN ONLY PLAY A FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL, SIR...

YOU DON'T BELONG ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
FORGET WHAT I SAID...

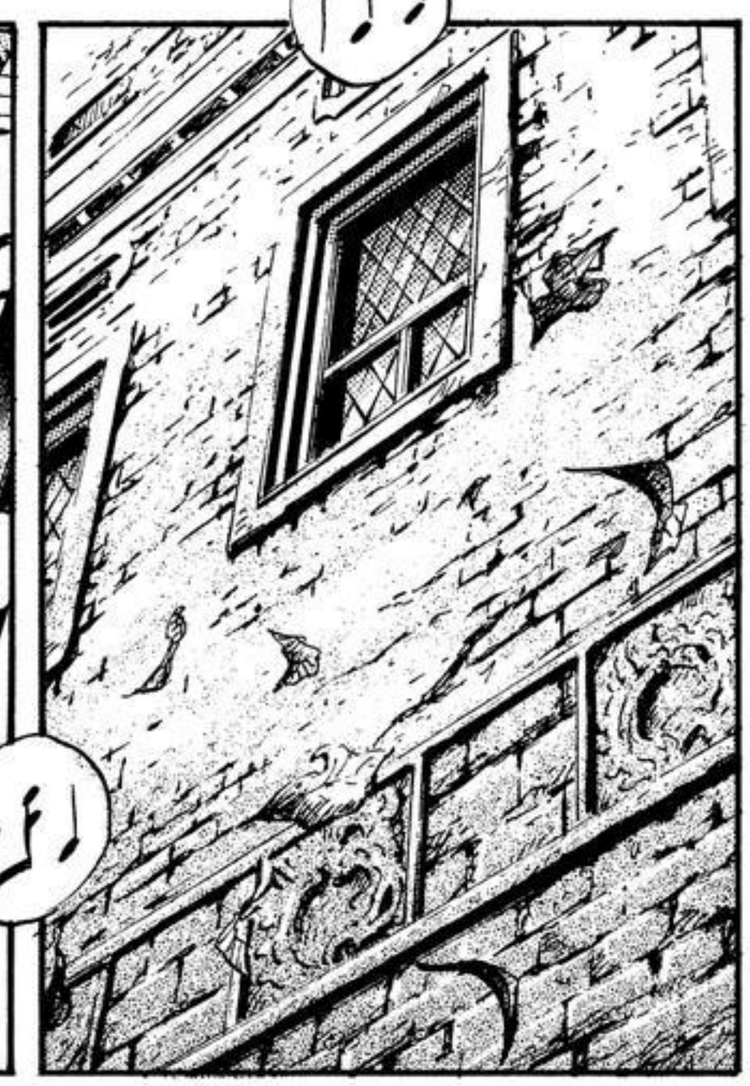


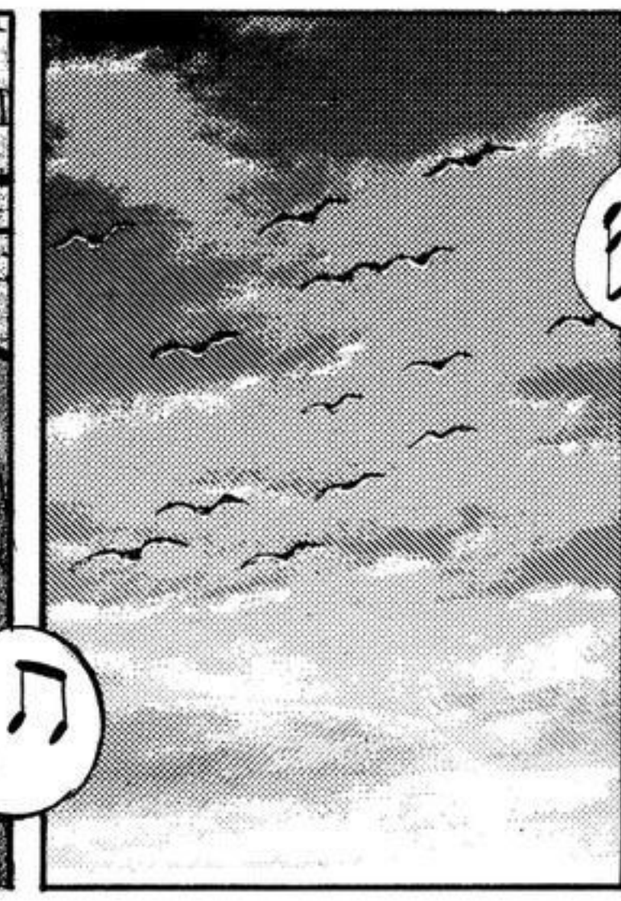
NORTH...

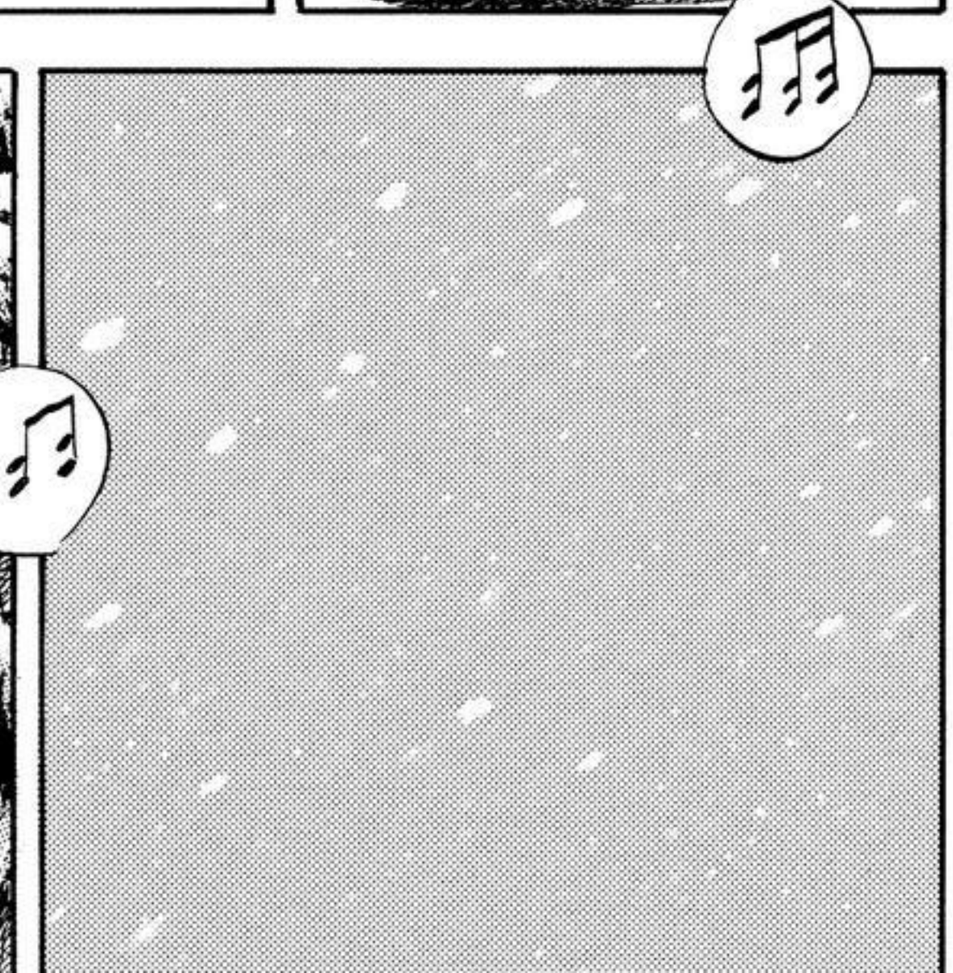


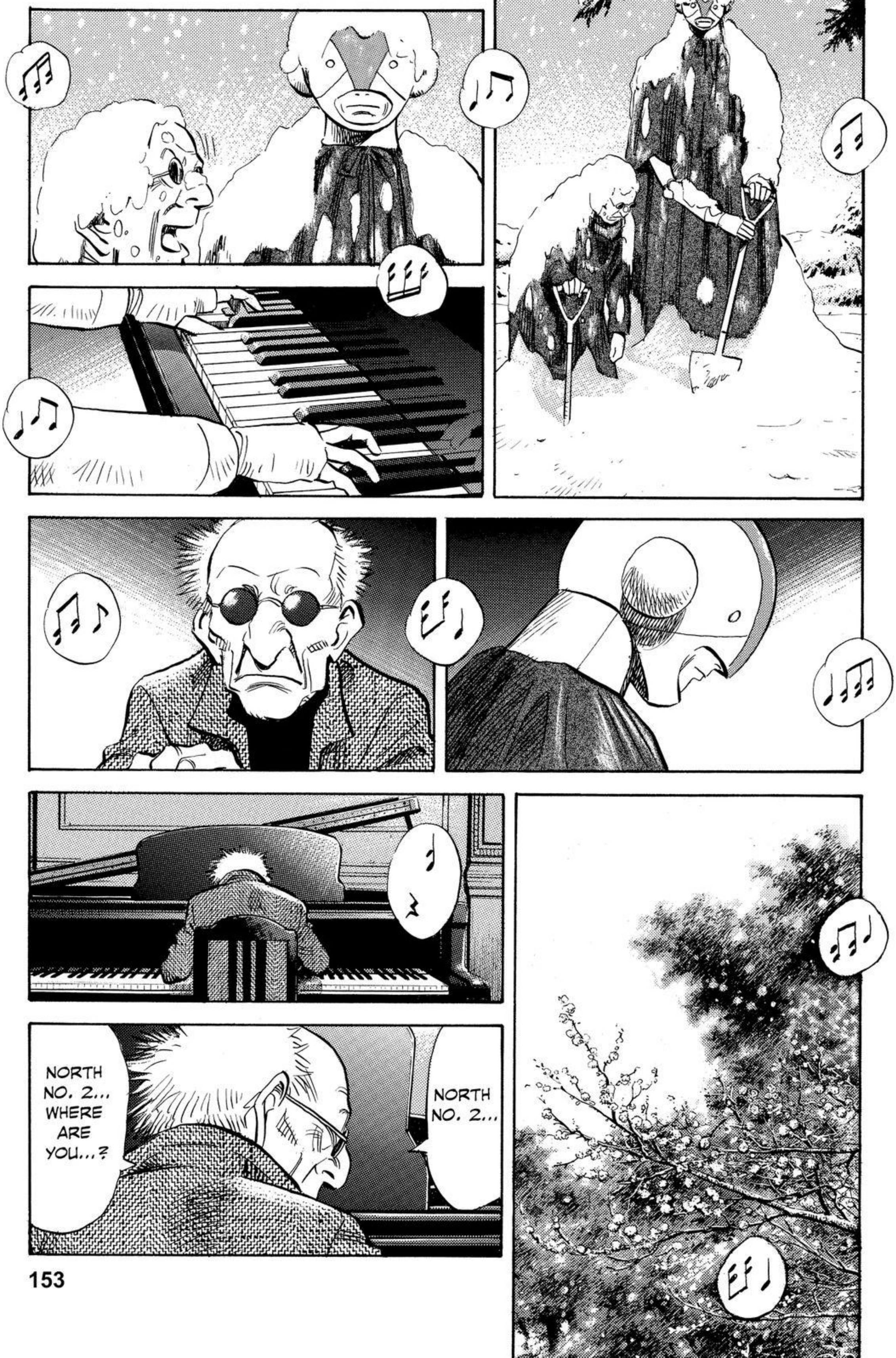
LET'S PRACTICE THE PIANO TOGETHER...

YES, SIR...





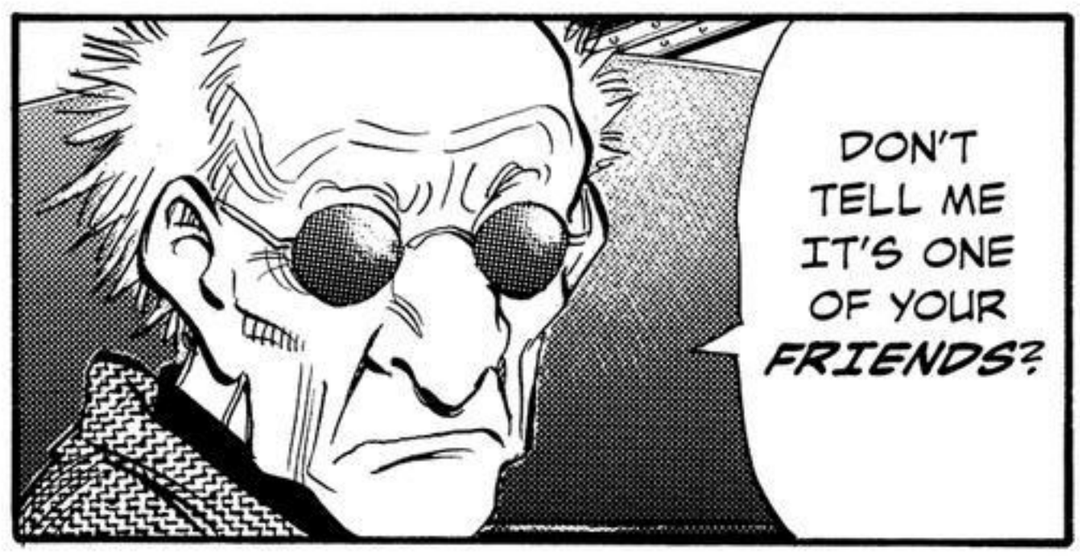


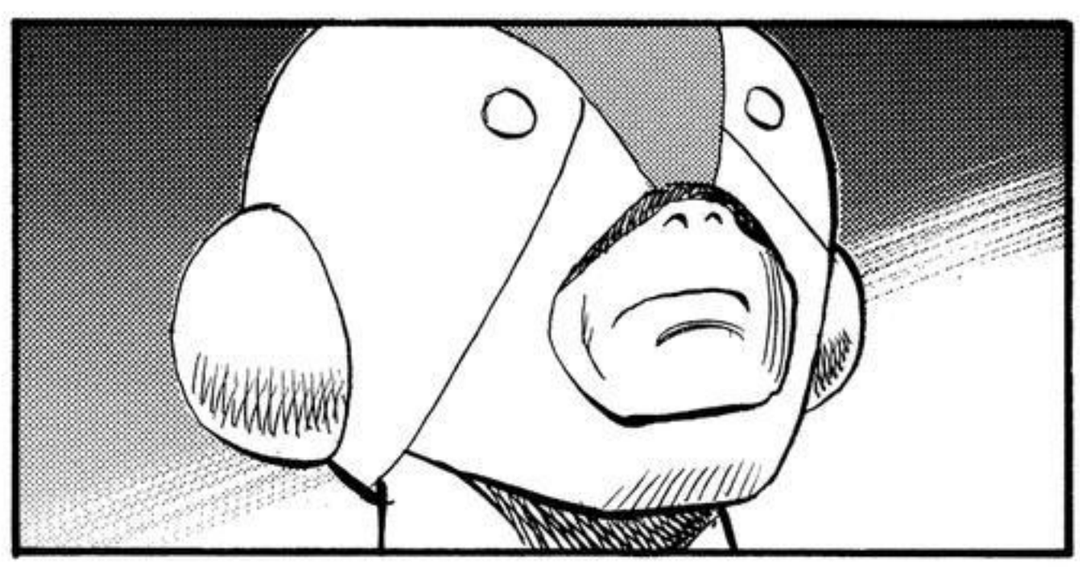

NORTH NO. 2... WHERE ARE YOU...?
NORTH NO. 2...

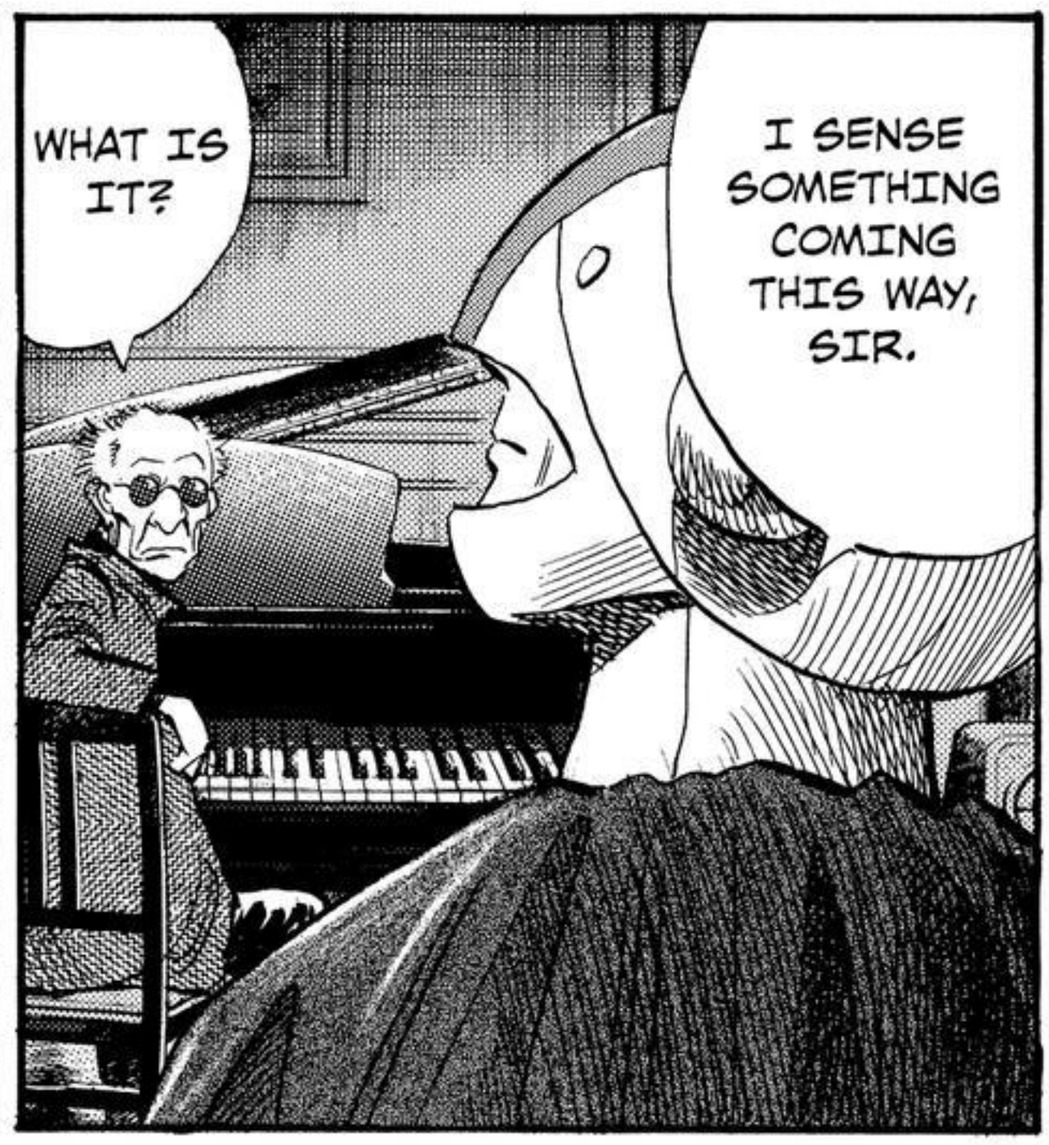
BUT NOT JUST NOW...
I WOULD BE HONORED TO LISTEN, SIR...

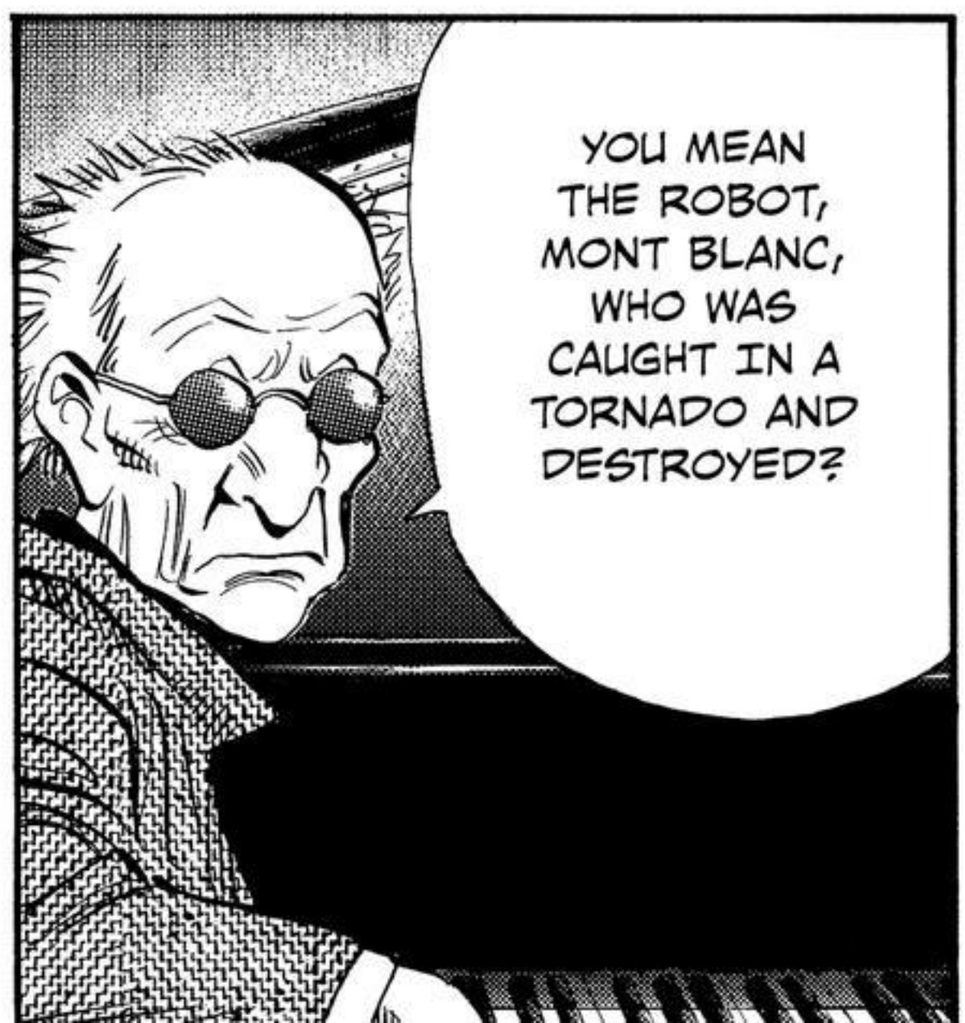
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT?

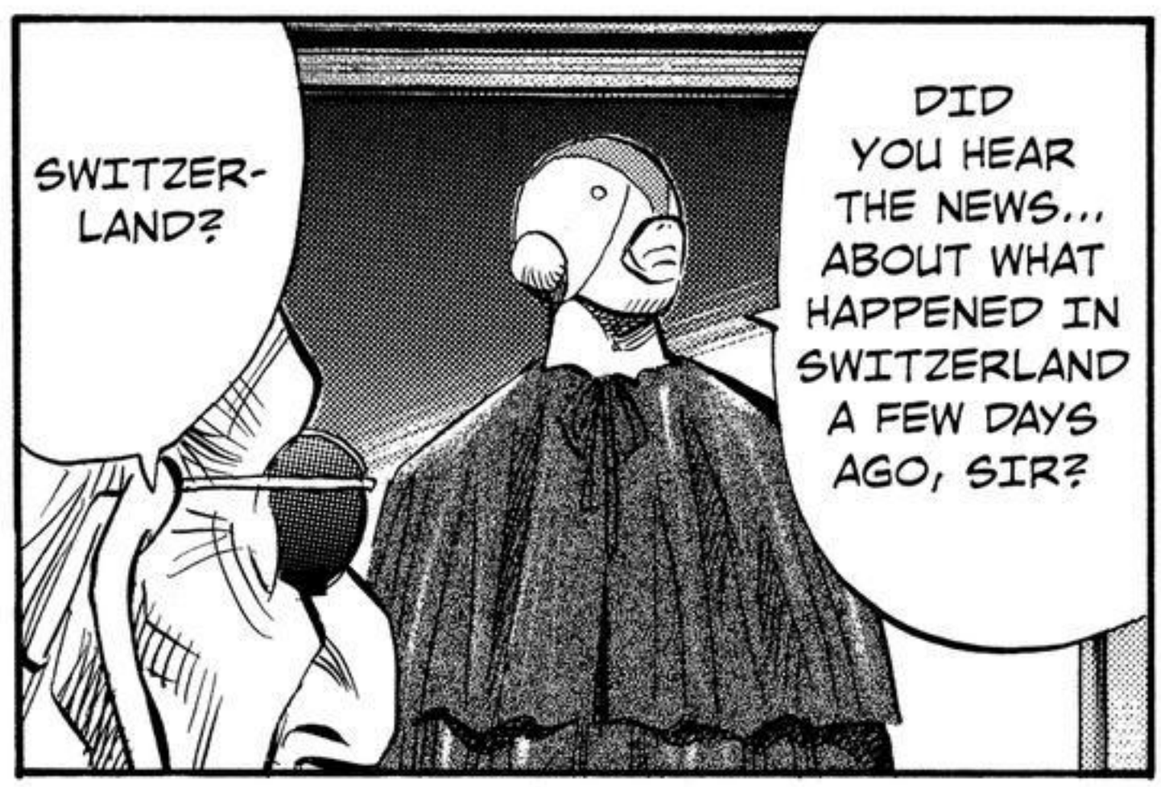
YOU CALLED, SIR?
I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO THIS PIECE... I'VE FINALLY FINISHED IT...


DON'T TELL ME IT'S ONE OF YOUR *FRIENDS*?



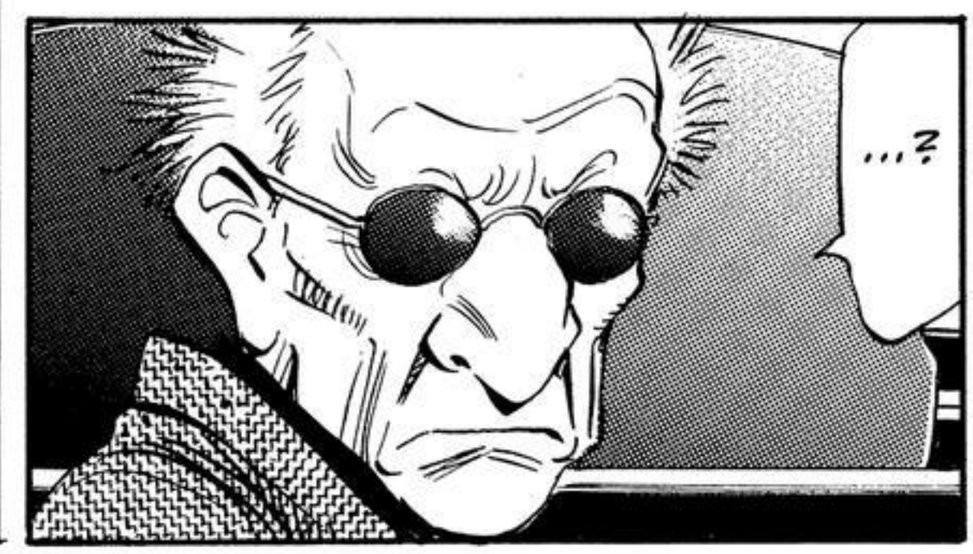

WHAT IS IT?
I SENSE SOMETHING COMING THIS WAY, SIR.


YOU MEAN THE ROBOT, MONT BLANC, WHO WAS CAUGHT IN A TORNADO AND DESTROYED?


SWITZER-LAND?
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS... ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN SWITZERLAND A FEW DAYS AGO, SIR?

I SENSE ...
... SOMETHING *THREAT-ENING*...

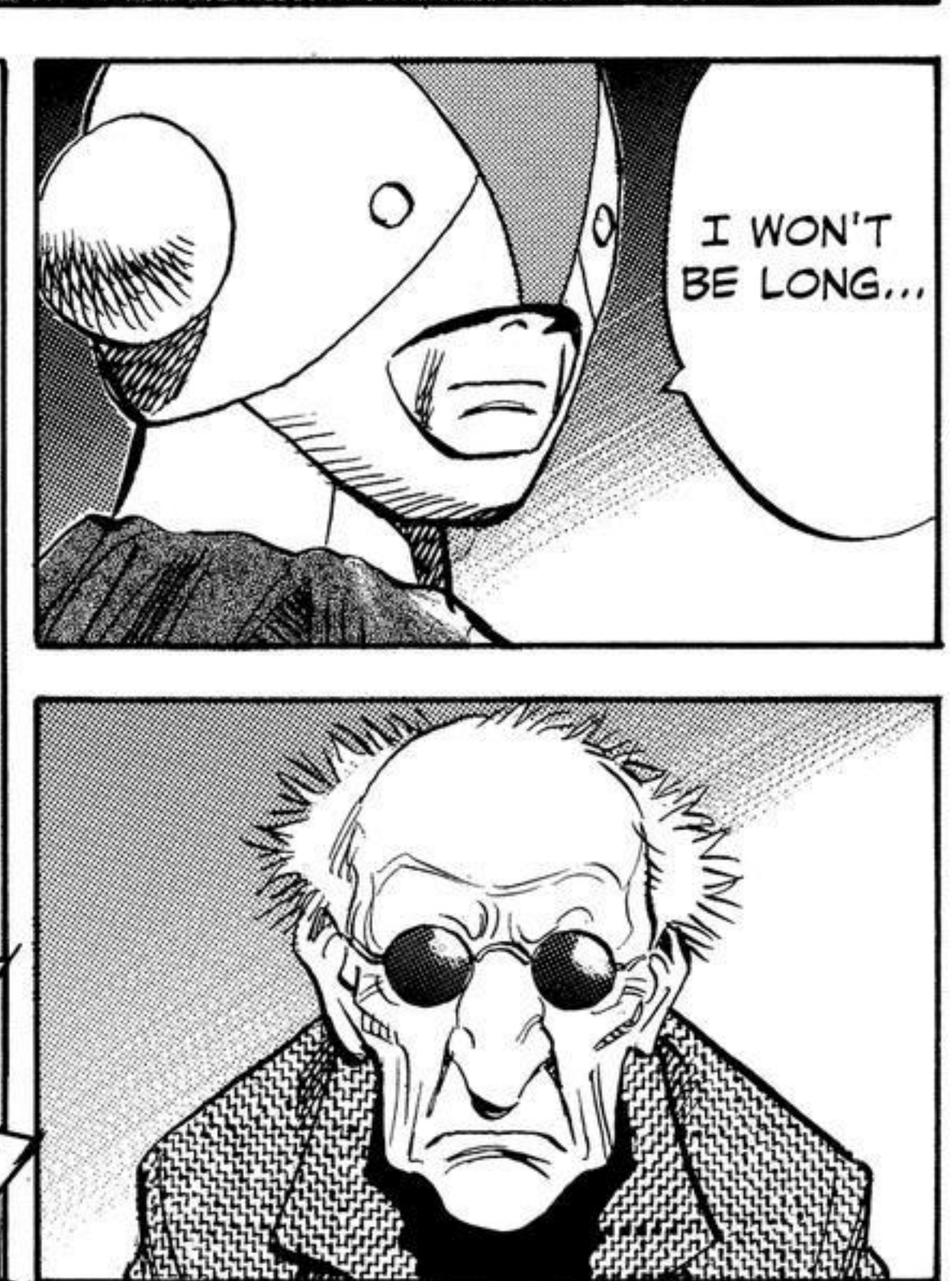
A SIMILAR TORNADO HAS TOUCHED DOWN A HUNDRED KILOMETERS FROM HERE, SIR.


...?

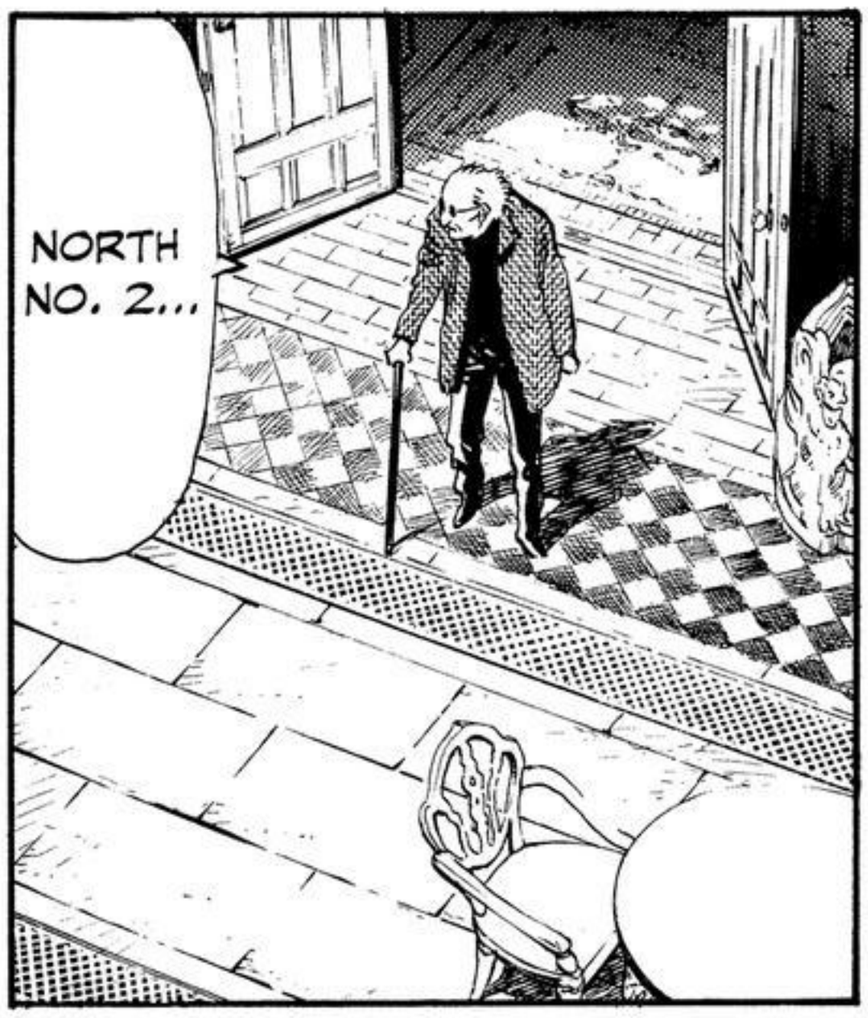
WAIT, NORTH... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
...AND IT'S FAST APPROACHING.

GACHANG

FLISH


I WON'T BE LONG...

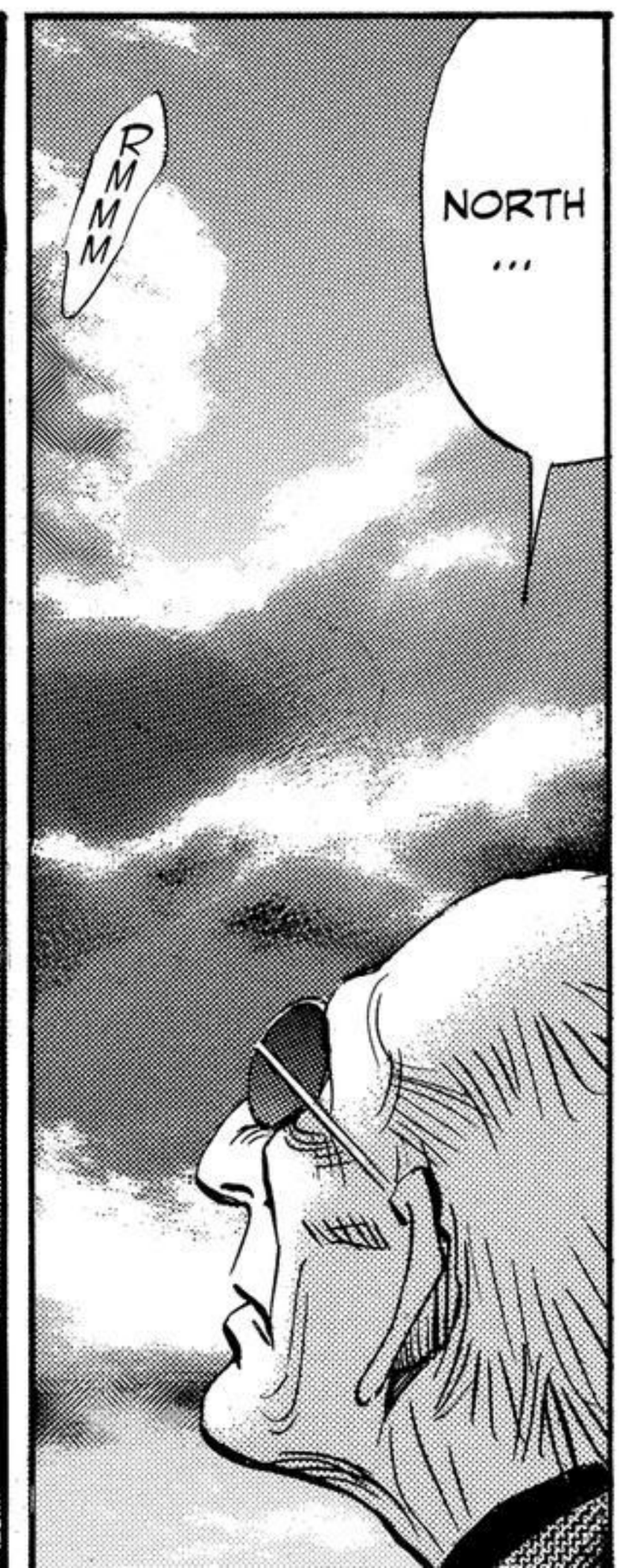
ZRR
EE

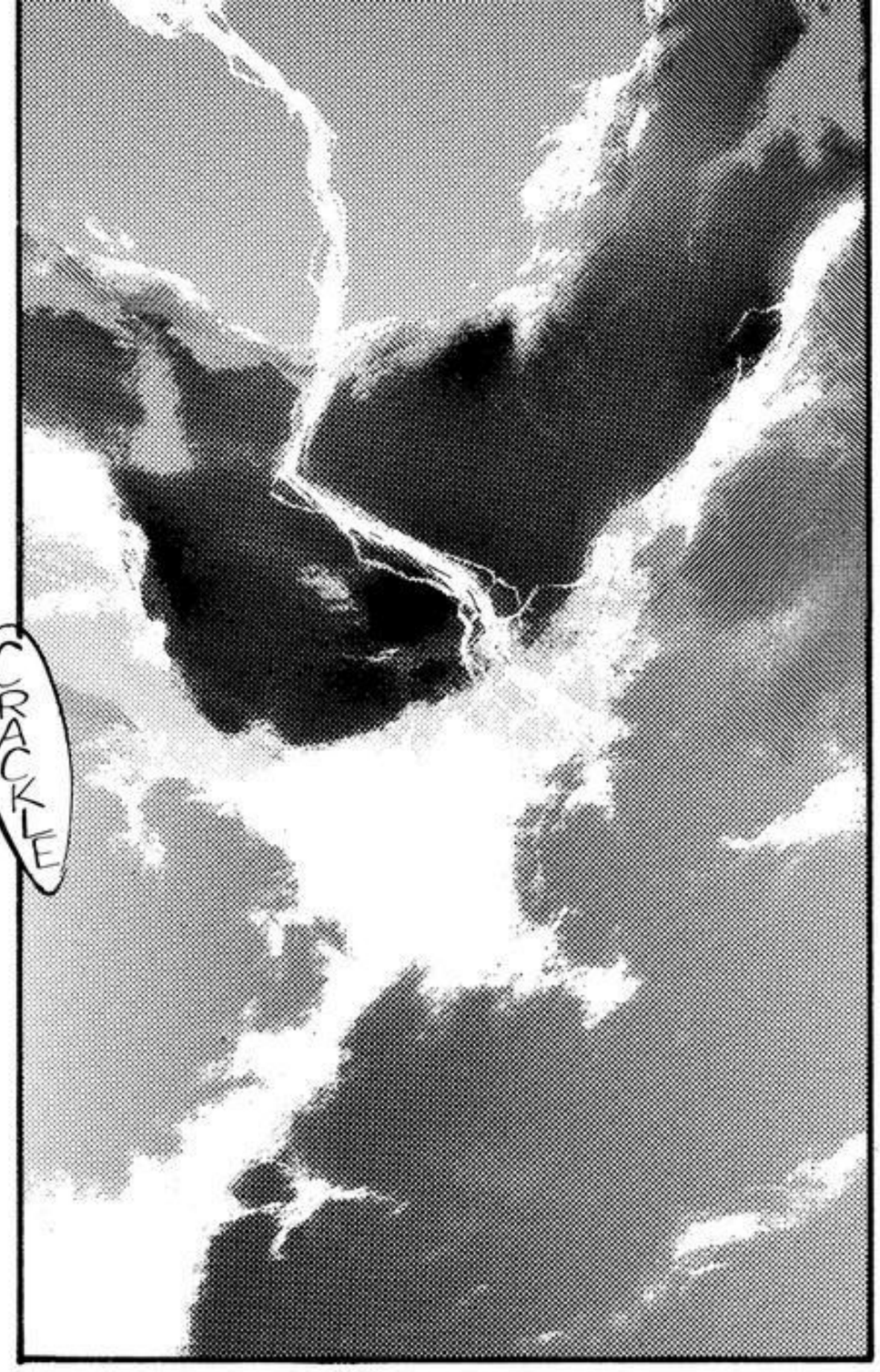

NORTH NO. 2...

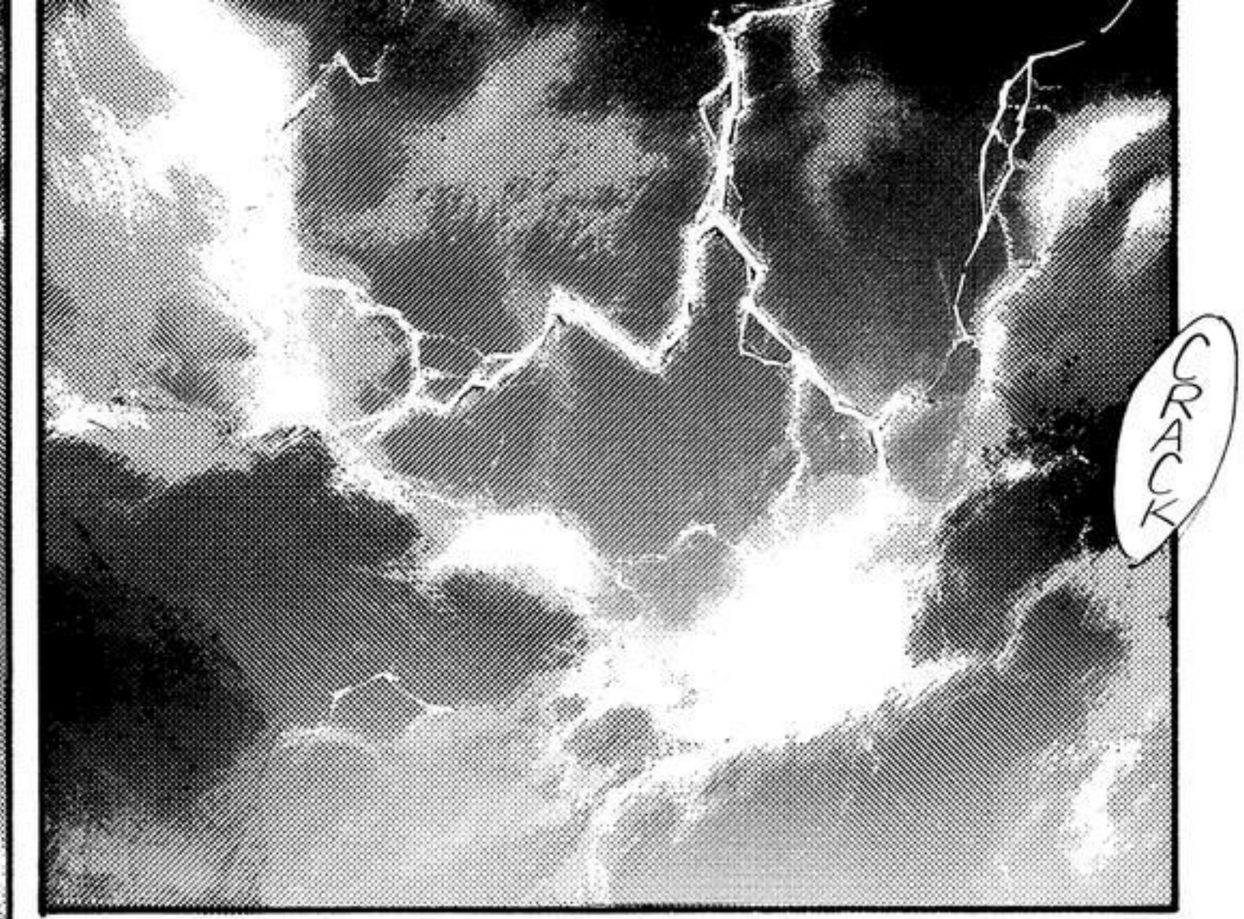
NORTH NO. 2...

WHOOM

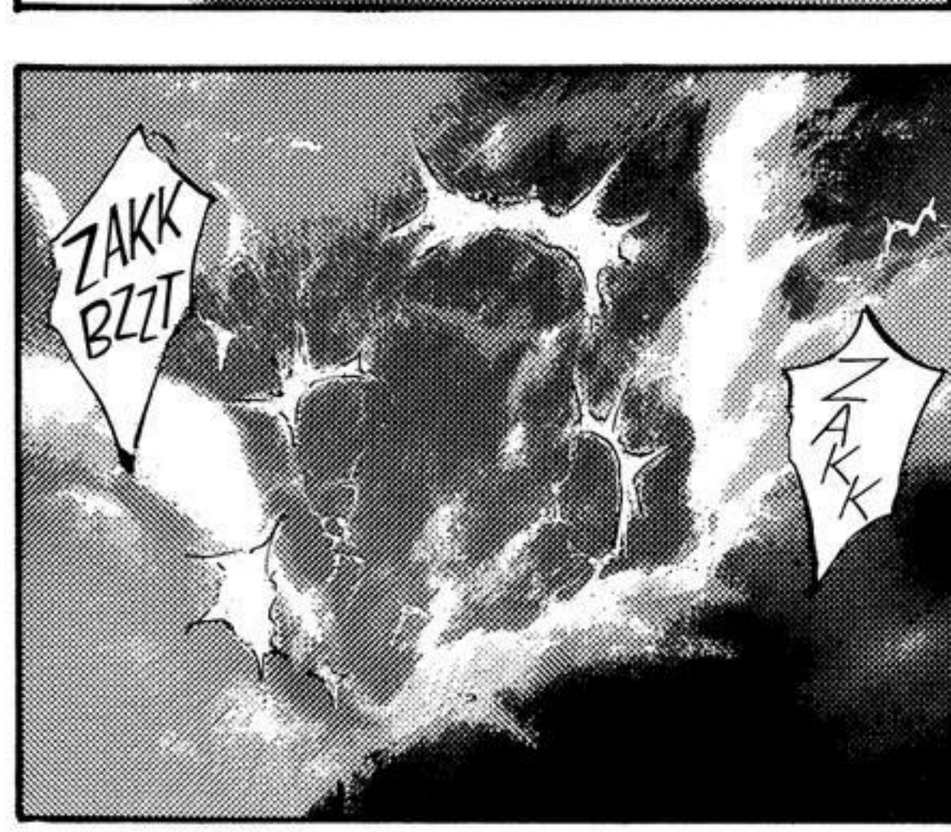
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


RMMMM
NORTH ...


CRACKLE


CRACK

WHAT WAS THAT?
RUMBLE RUMBLE


ZAKK BZZT
ZAKK

WHAT THE BLAZES IS GOING ON?
BBOOM

KABOOM

WAIT...

WHA--?!

NORTH NO. 2!

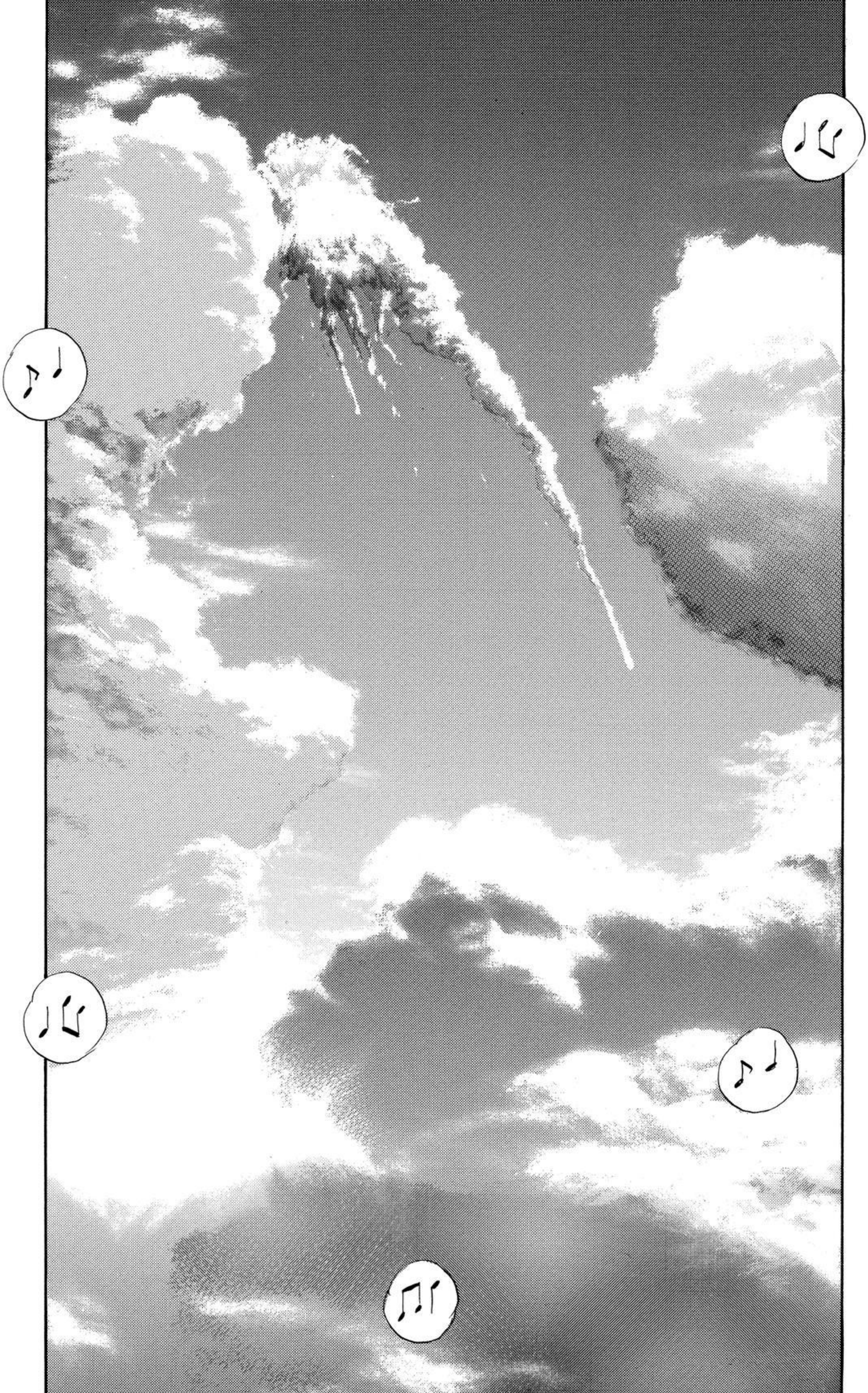
IT'S THAT MELODY...

...IS FILLING THE *ENTIRE SKY*!
THAT MELODY ...

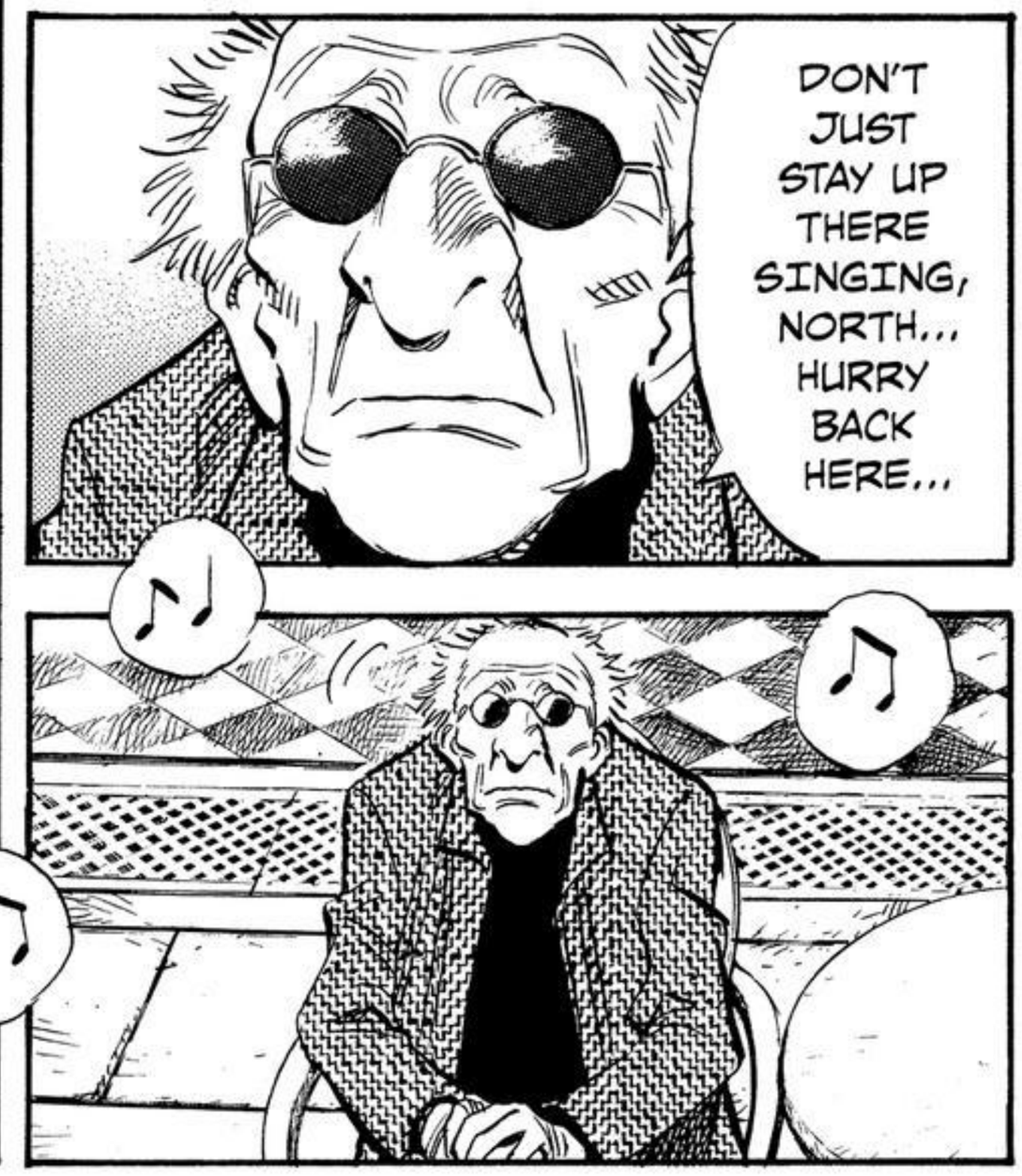
MY GOD... IT'S NORTH...

BOOM

NORTH IS SINGING THE MELODY...



NORTH NO. 2...


DON'T JUST STAY UP THERE SINGING, NORTH... HURRY BACK HERE...

IT'S TIME FOR OUR PIANO LESSON...

Act 7 BRANDO

UNDEFEATED IN 936 CONSECUTIVE FIGHTS!! WILL THIS INVINCIBLE LEGEND EVER MEET HIS MATCH?!!

ROAR!

HURRAH!

HE'S INVIN-CIBLE...! IT'S A FIRST ROUND VICTORY FOR THE ESKKKR TOURNAMENT!!

ROAR!

HURRAH!

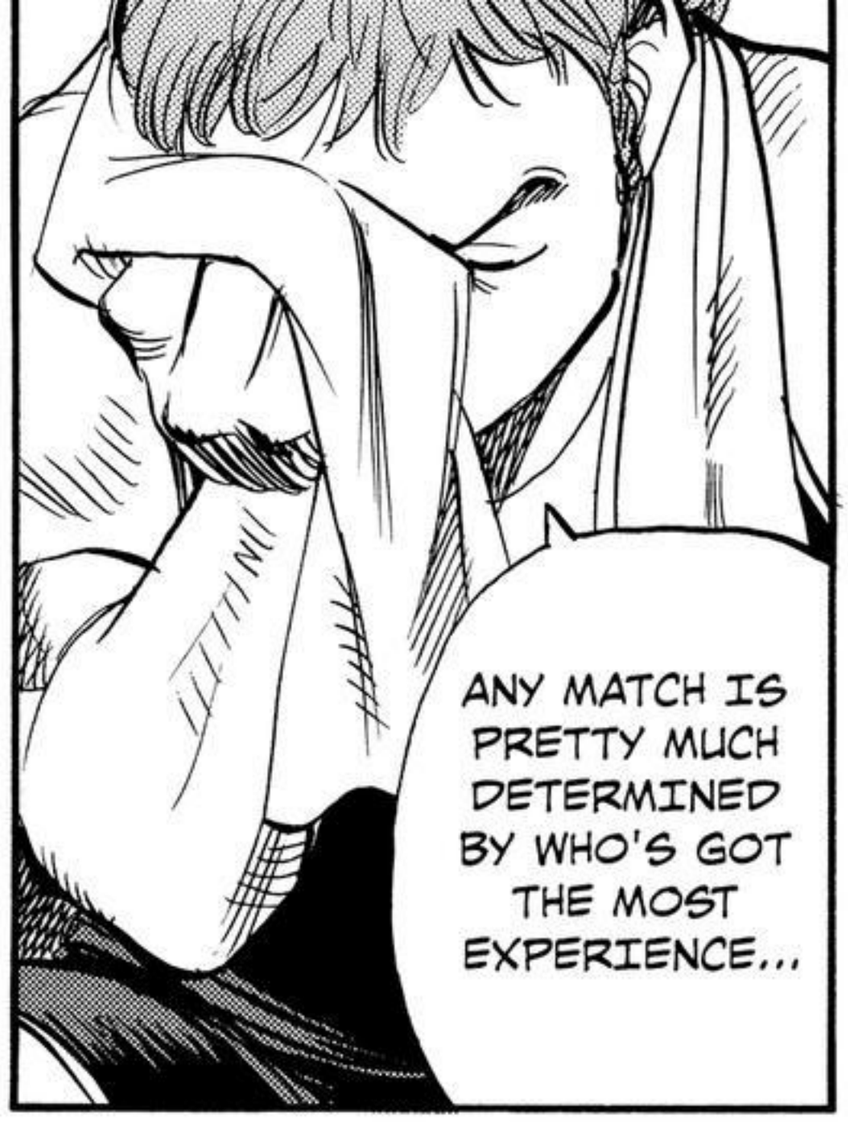
AH!
I GIVE YOU THE STRONGEST WARRIOR OF ALL TIME, BRANDO!!!
HURRAH!
PSSSSHT
KLAK
RAH!
RAH!
RAH!
RAH!

NAW...

THAT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE MATCH, BRANDO...

IT'S GETTING TOUGHER AND TOUGHER THESE DAYS...

LATELY, AFTER EVERY MATCH, I GOTTA SIT DOWN AND REST BEFORE I CAN MOVE AGAIN...

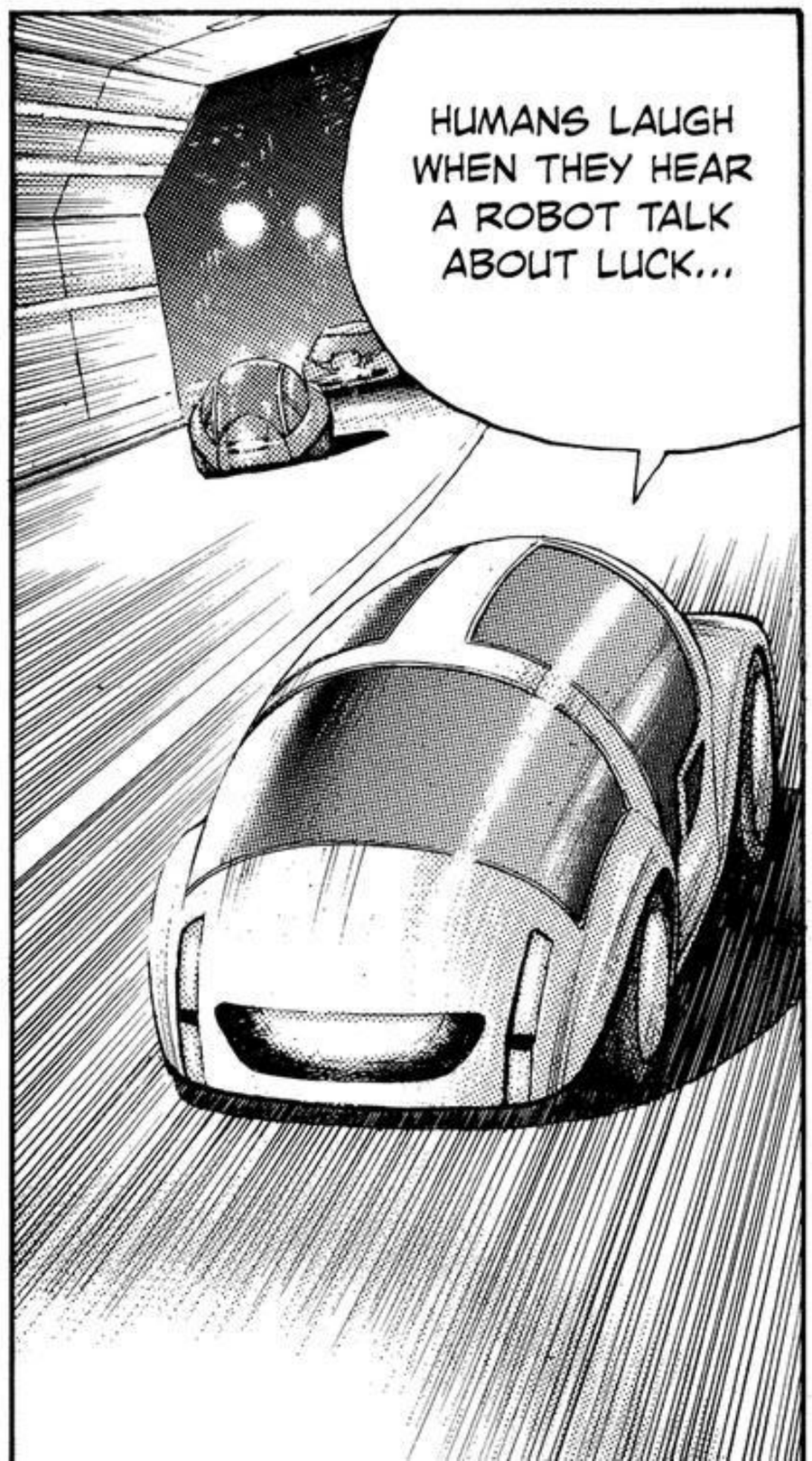


THE REST IS ALL *LUCK*!

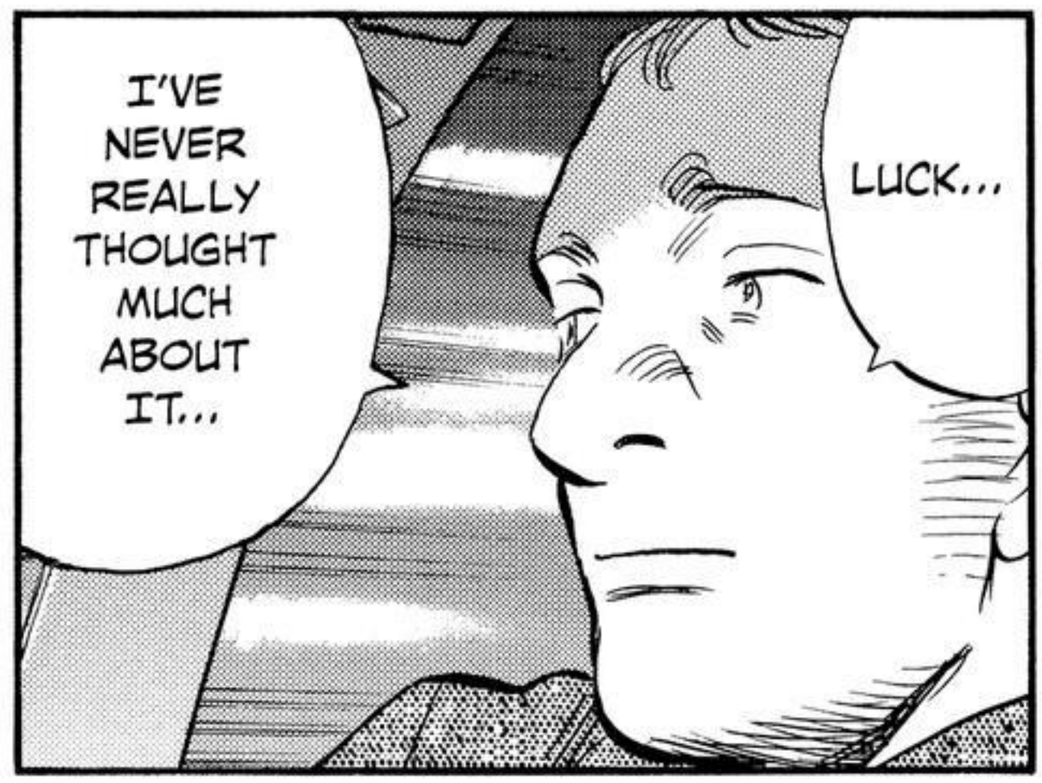
Act 7

BRANDO

ISTANBUL,
EURO FEDERATION



WELL, I KNOW ENOUGH TO SAY I'M A *LUCKY MAN*!

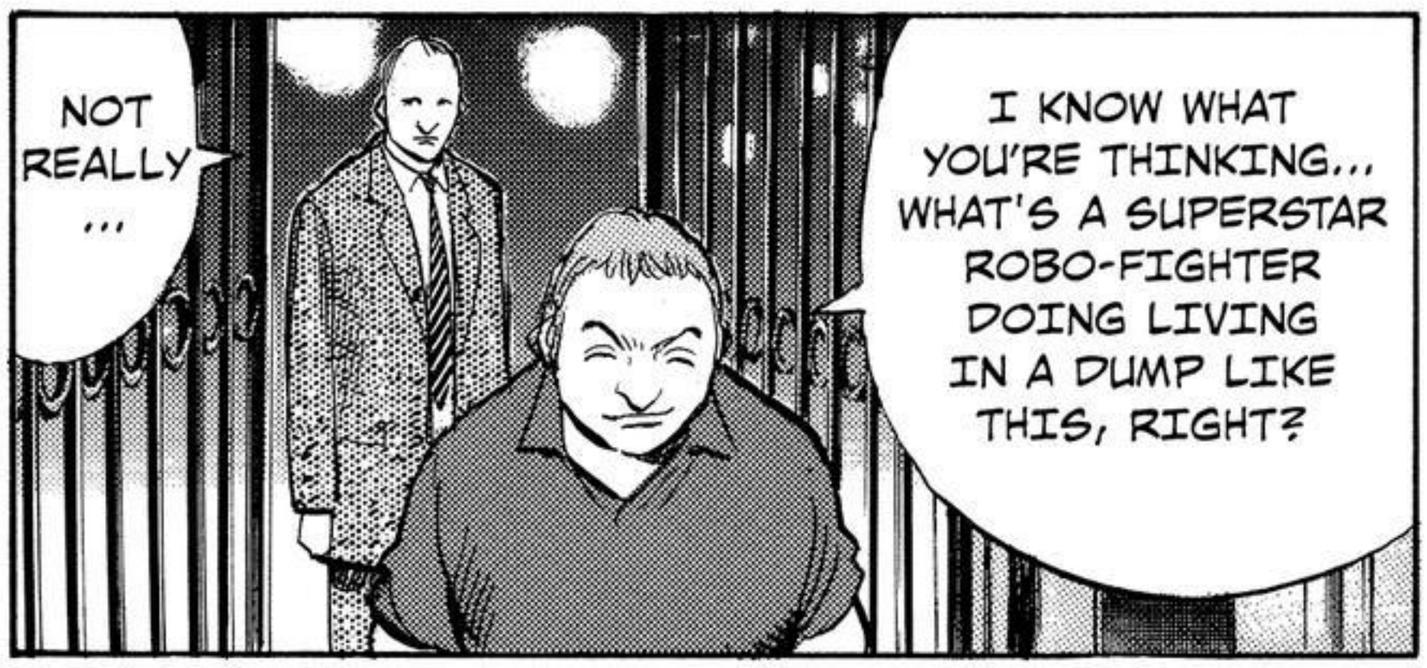

I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT IT...
LUCK...

WE'LL BE IN OLD TOWN...

ONCE WE'RE THROUGH THIS TUNNEL...

AND IT *DOES* LOOK OLD, RIGHT? IT'S A WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

WE'RE UP THERE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.


NOT REALLY ...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... WHAT'S A SUPERSTAR ROBO-FIGHTER DOING LIVING IN A DUMP LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

...

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE GOT BETTER WAYS TO SPEND MY MONEY.

I SUPPOSE I'VE MADE ENOUGH FIGHT MONEY TO LIVE IN A PRETTY CLASSY MANSION...

THE CHAMPION RETURNS!

I'M HOME!

CLICK

YEA H!!

WELCOME HOME, DADDY!

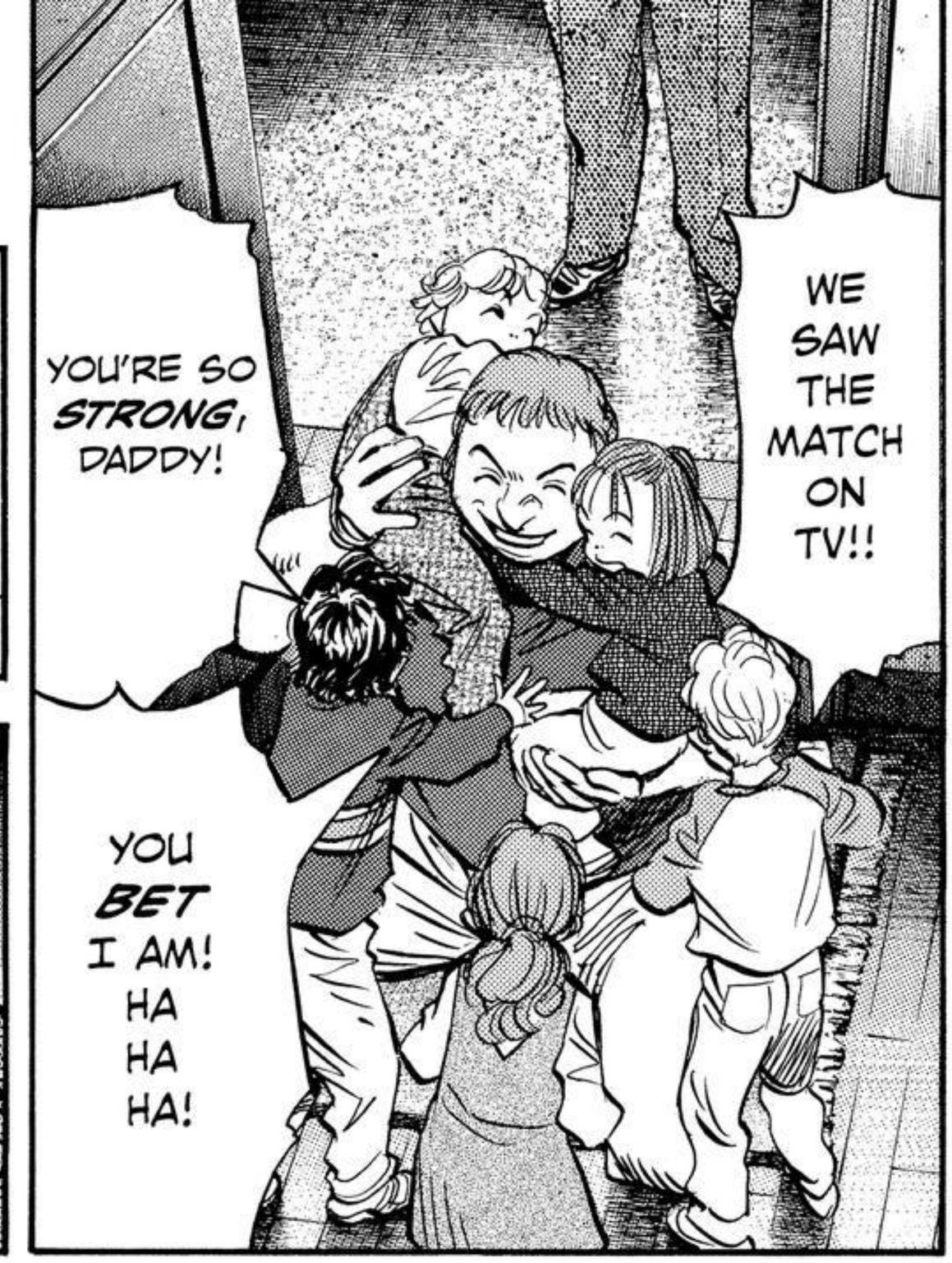
DADDY!

YOU KIDS BEEN GOOD?

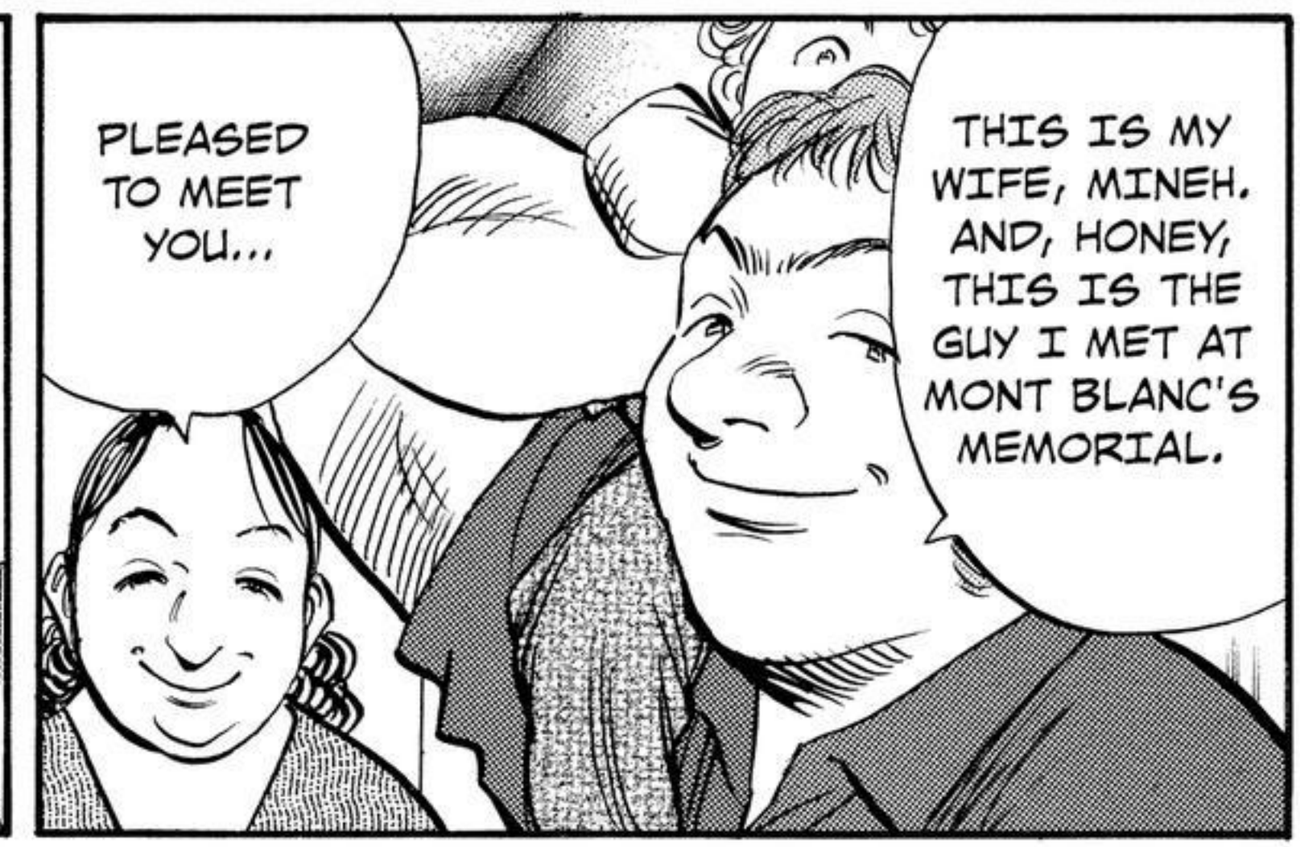
!!

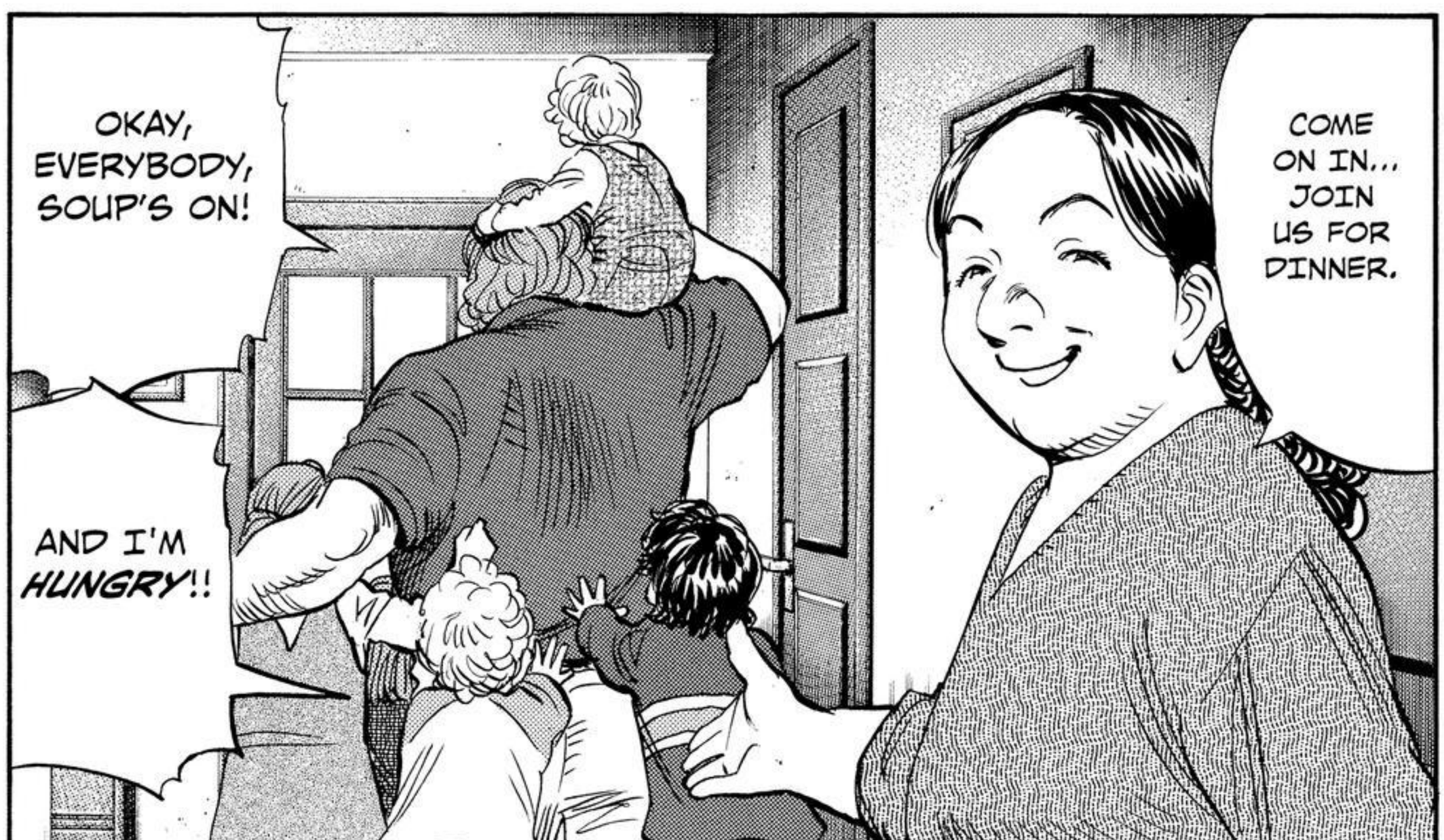
DINNER'S ALMOST READY, DEAR... OH, S'CUSE ME...

OH YEAH... I ALMOST FORGOT...

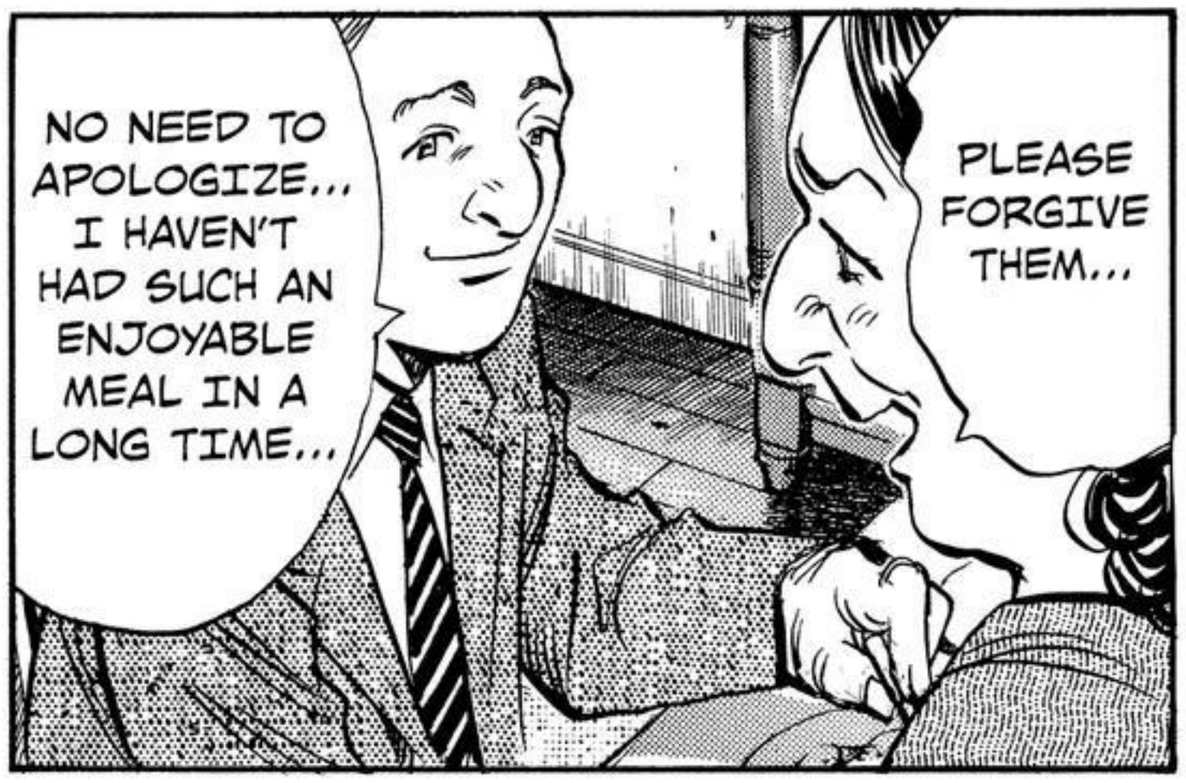

YOU'RE SO STRONG, DADDY!
WE SAW THE MATCH ON TV!!
YOU BET I AM! HA HA HA!

LIKEWISE... GESICHT, OF EUROPOL...


PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
THIS IS MY WIFE, MINEH. AND, HONEY, THIS IS THE GUY I MET AT MONT BLANC'S MEMORIAL.

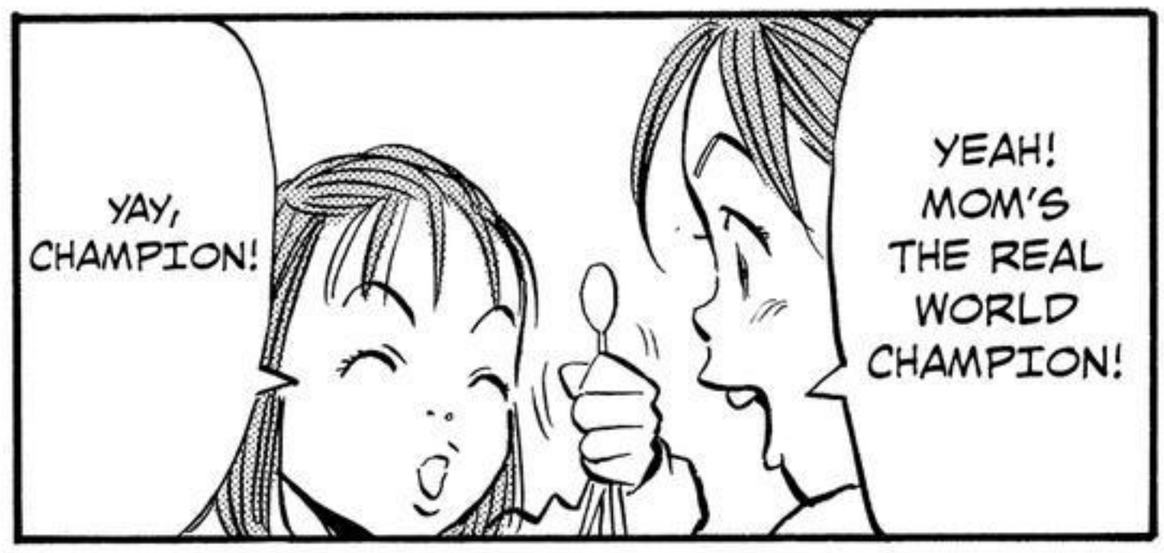

OKAY, EVERYBODY, SOUP'S ON!
COME ON IN... JOIN US FOR DINNER.
AND I'M HUNGRY!!

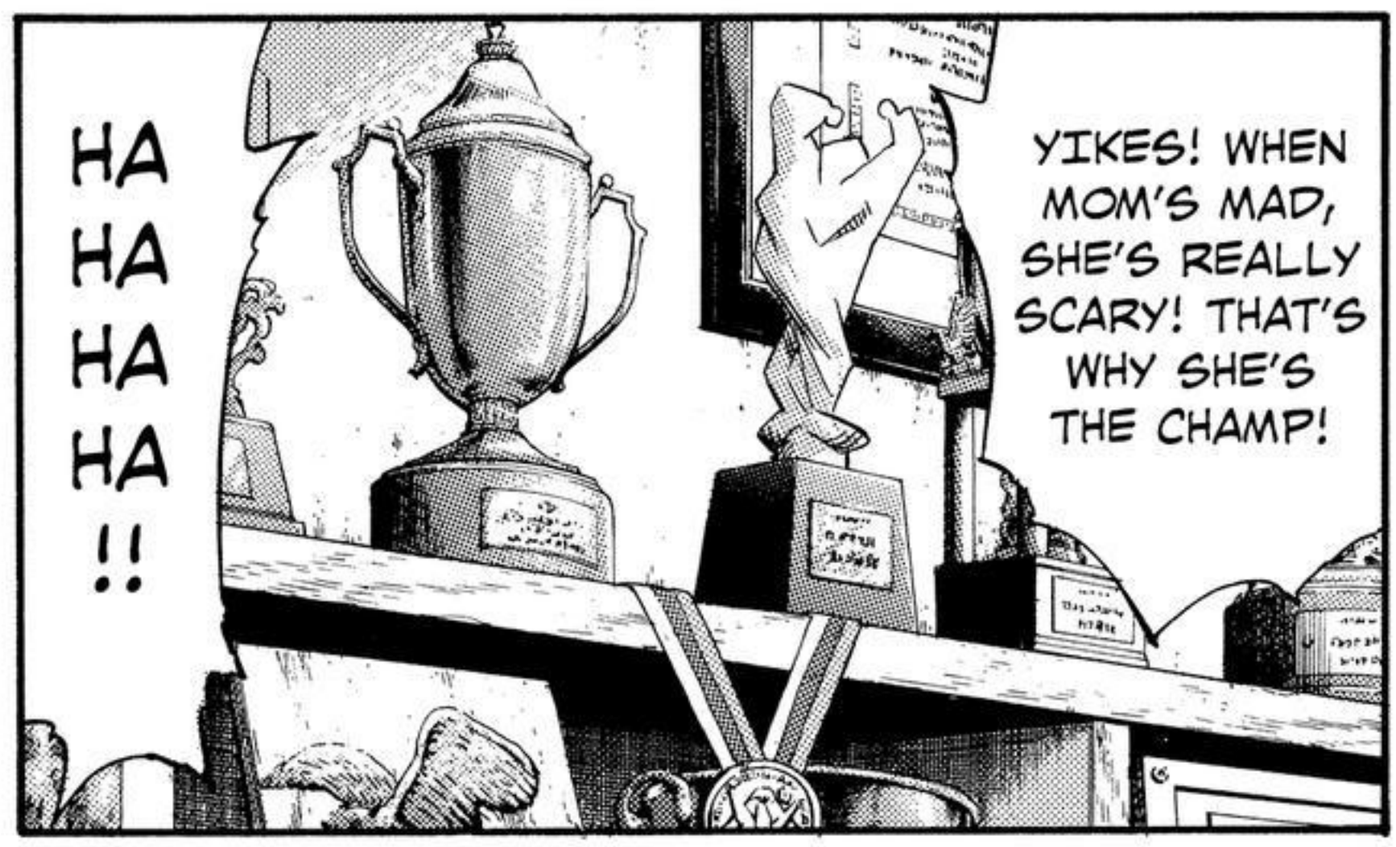
YAAAY
YAAAY
HEY! WATCH IT, YOU'RE GONNA SPILL THAT!
NO RUNNING DURING DINNER!
HAHA



MOM WEARS THE PANTS AROUND HERE!

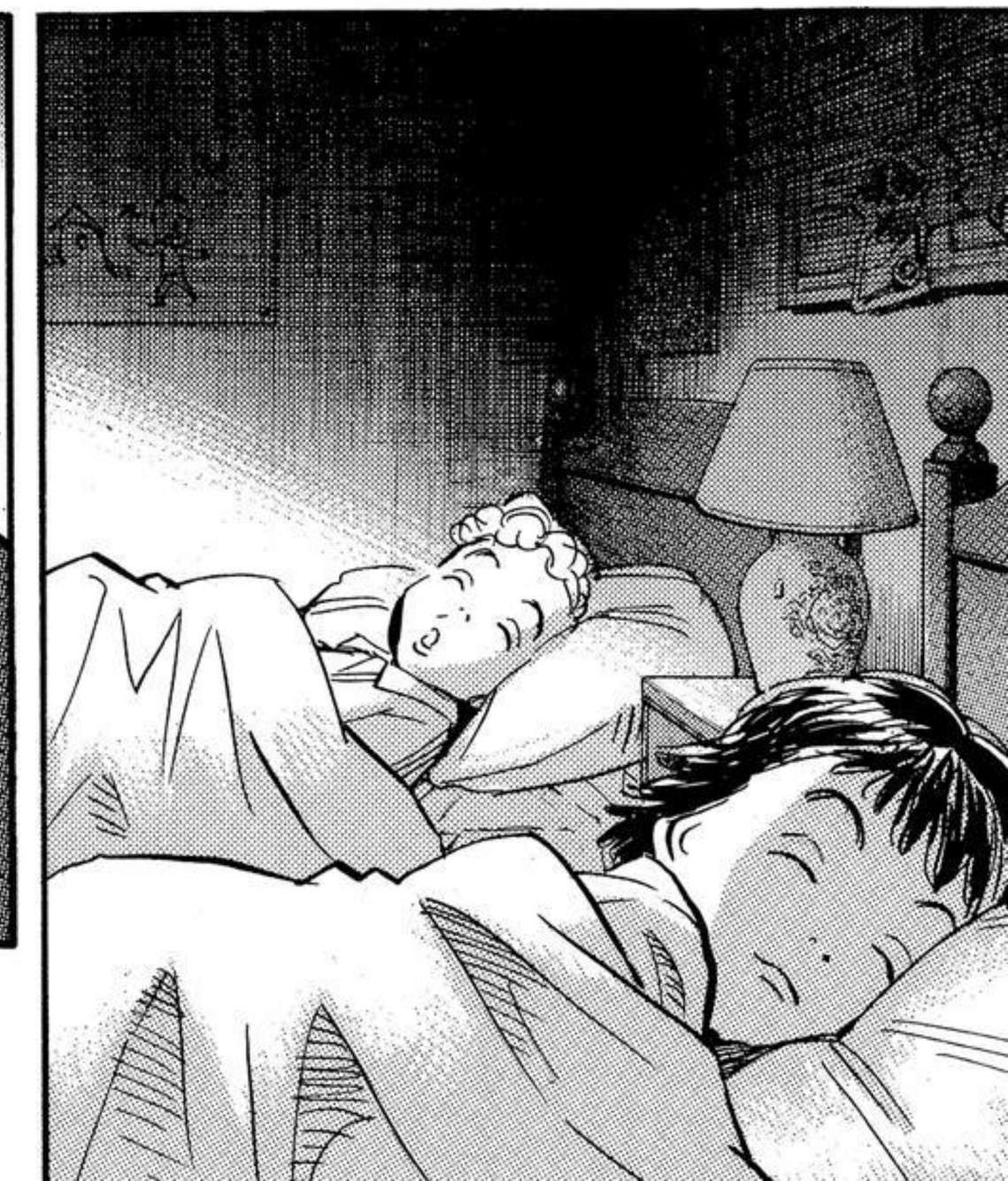
YOU EAT SOME SALAD TOO, DEAR!
GASP...


YAY, CHAMPION!
YEAH! MOM'S THE REAL WORLD CHAMPION!


HA HA HA HA !!
YIKES! WHEN MOM'S MAD, SHE'S REALLY SCARY! THAT'S WHY SHE'S THE CHAMP!

ENOUGH FOOLISH-NESS! EAT YOUR DINNER!

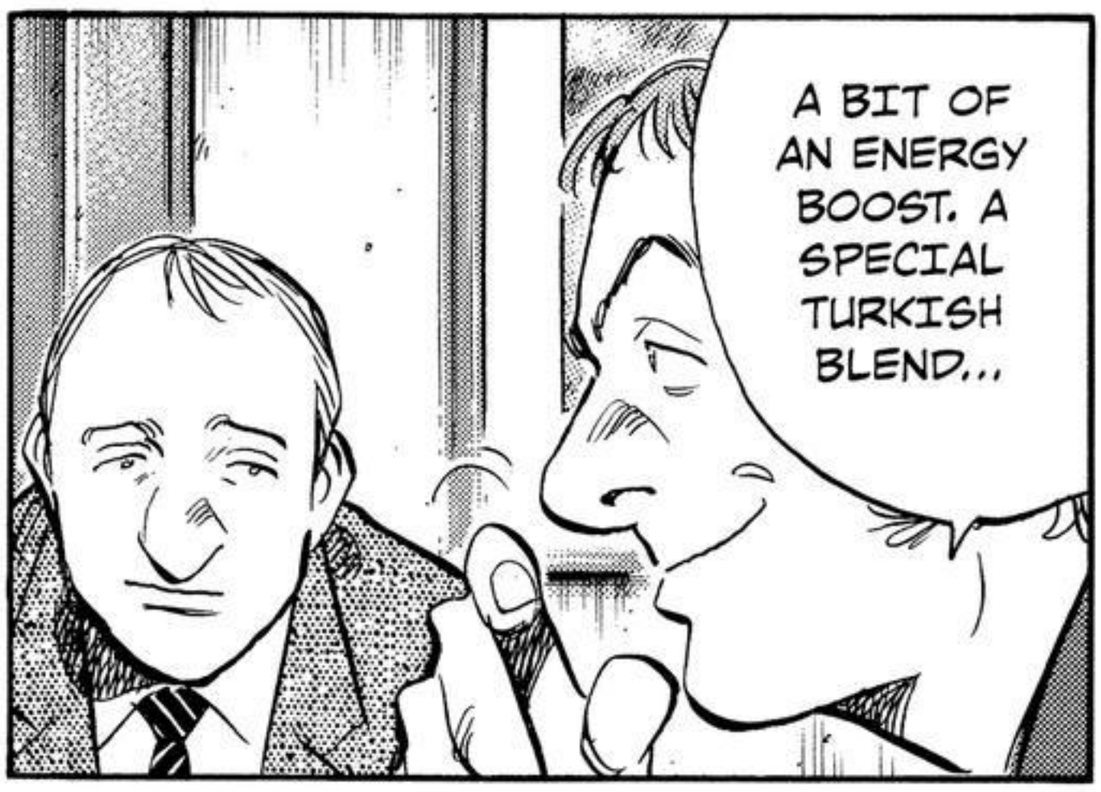
EVERYONE ASLEEP?



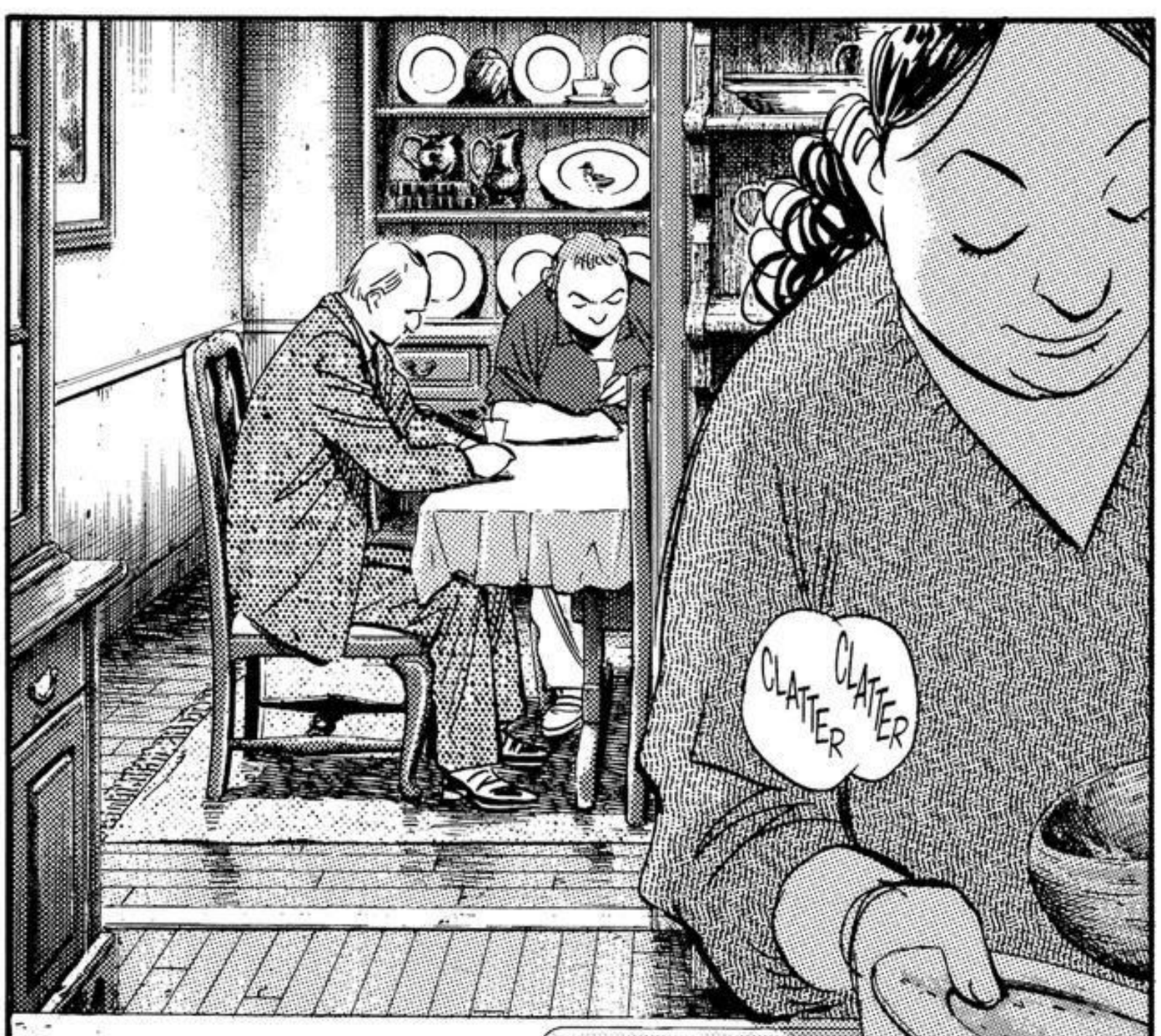
NICE AND LIVELY, THAT'S FOR SURE...

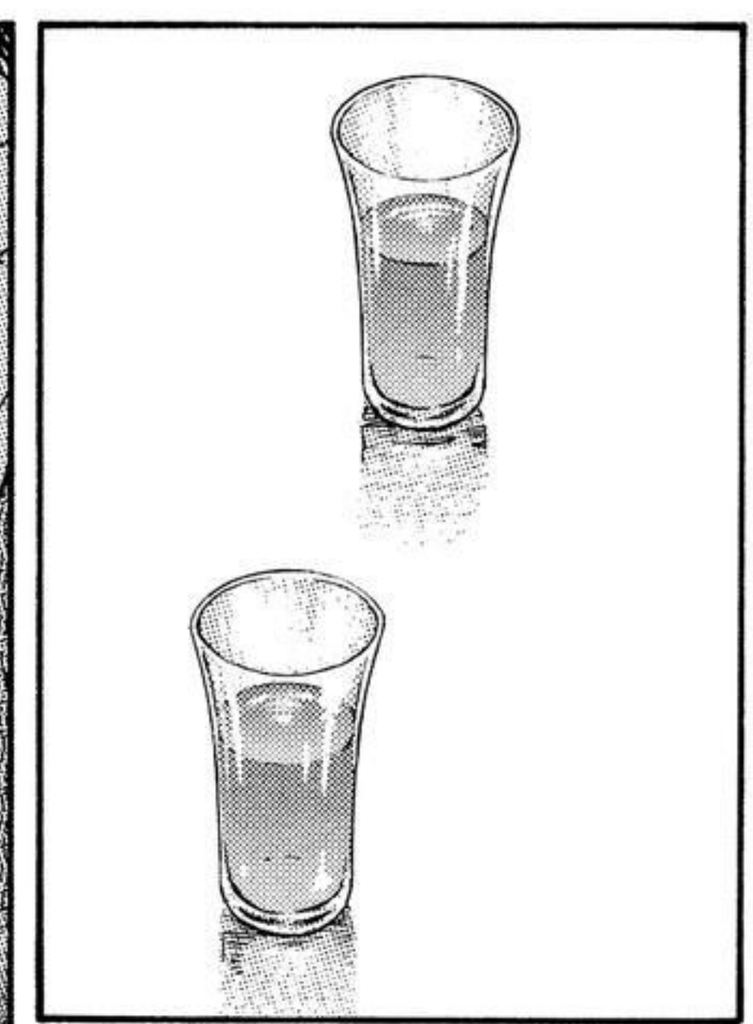
?
HOW ABOUT WE HAVE SOME OF THE GOOD STUFF, EH?

YEP... HUMAN-STYLE MEALS ARE LOTS OF FUN, DON'T YOU THINK?


A BIT OF AN ENERGY BOOST. A SPECIAL TURKISH BLEND...

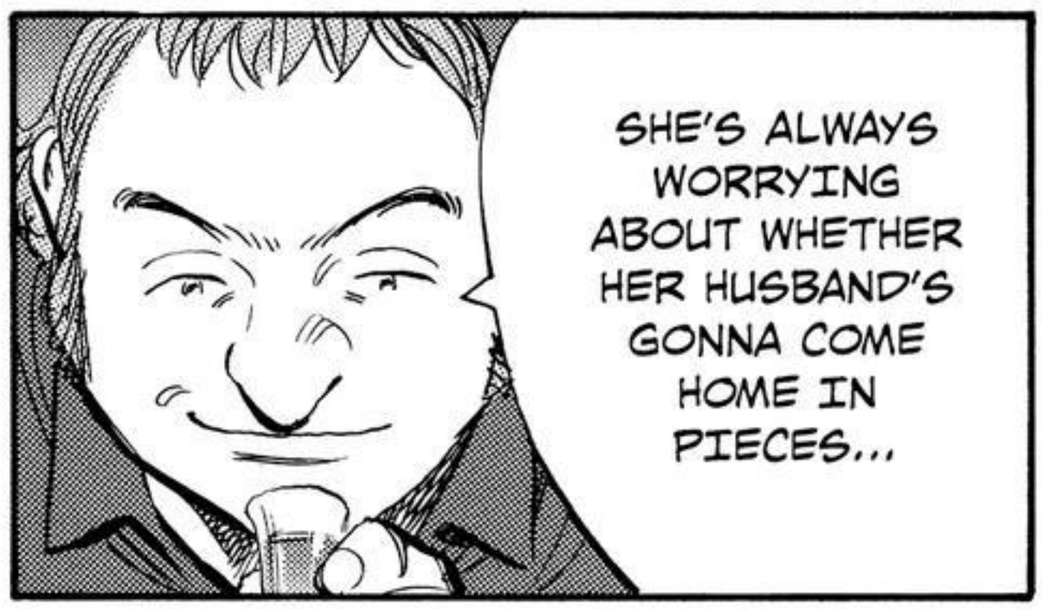
BUT DON'T OVERDO IT... YOU KNOW HOW IT AFFECTS YOU.
WELL, ALL RIGHT ...


CLATTER CLATTER

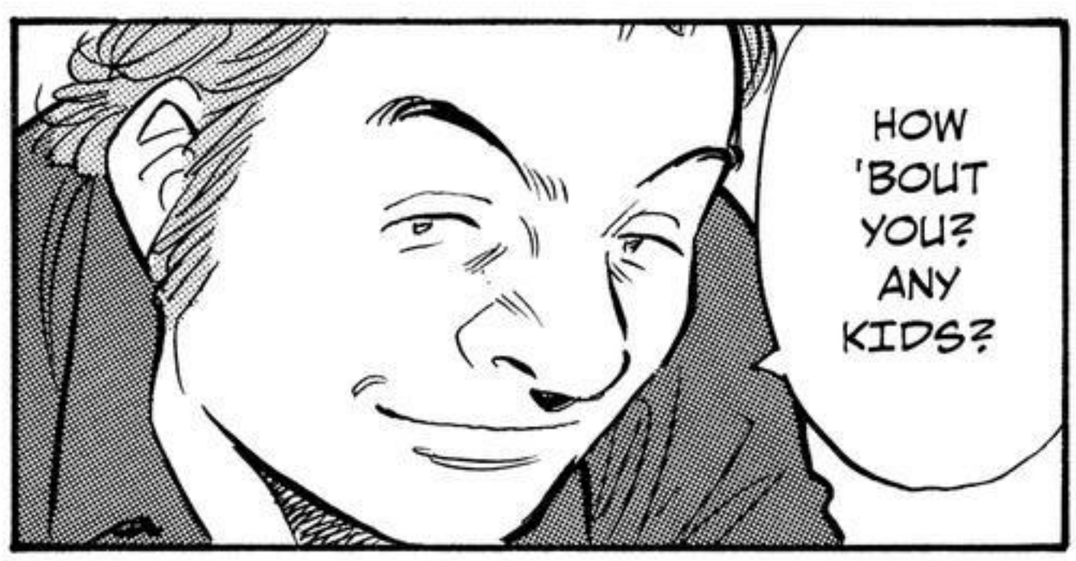


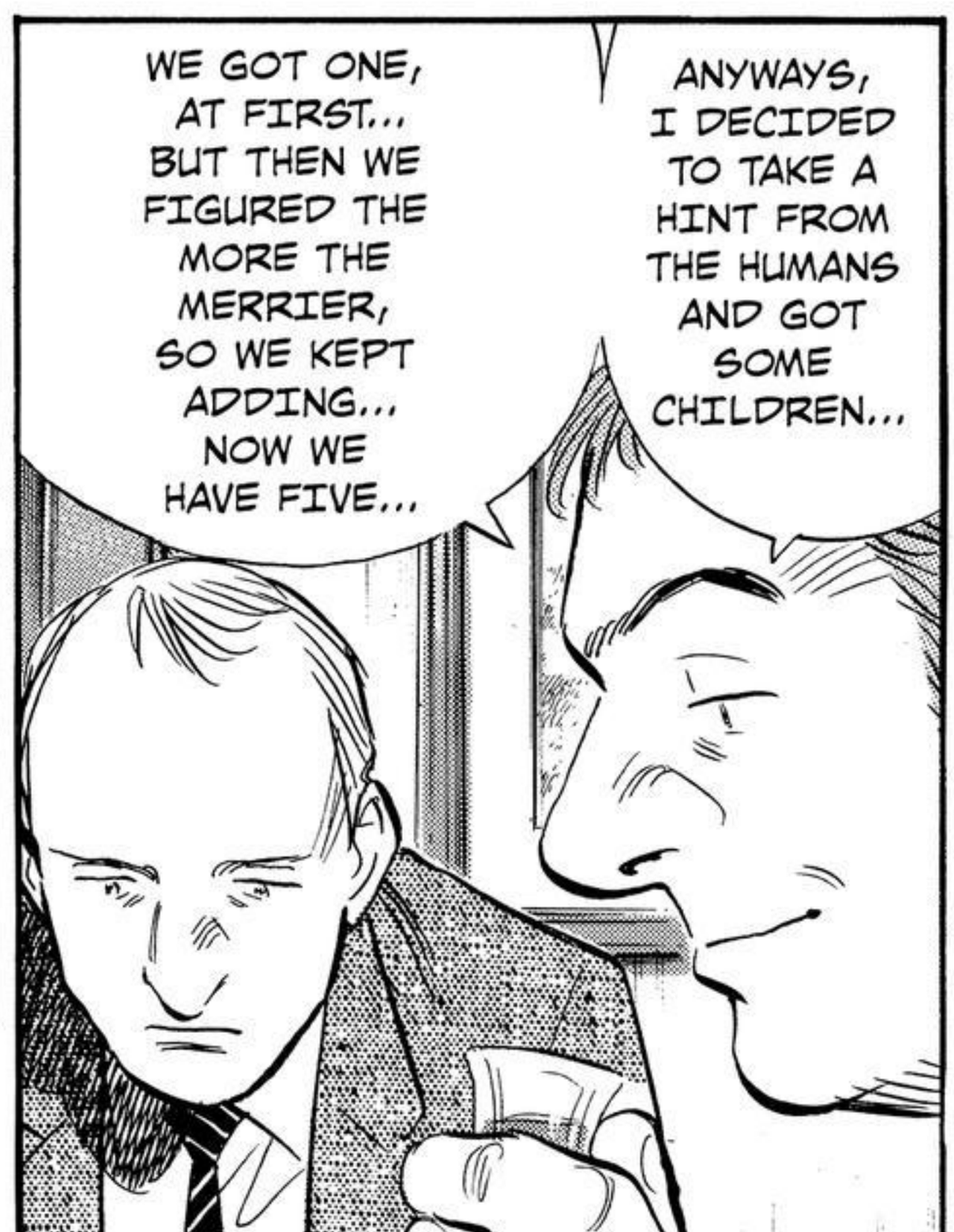
...WITH THE FIGHT MONEY I'VE EARNED...

I'VE MADE A LIFE FOR MYSELF...


SHE'S ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER HER HUSBAND'S GONNA COME HOME IN PIECES...

...MY WIFE ALWAYS HAS TO STAY HOME ALONE...
Y'KNOW, FIGHTIN' FOR A LIVIN'...

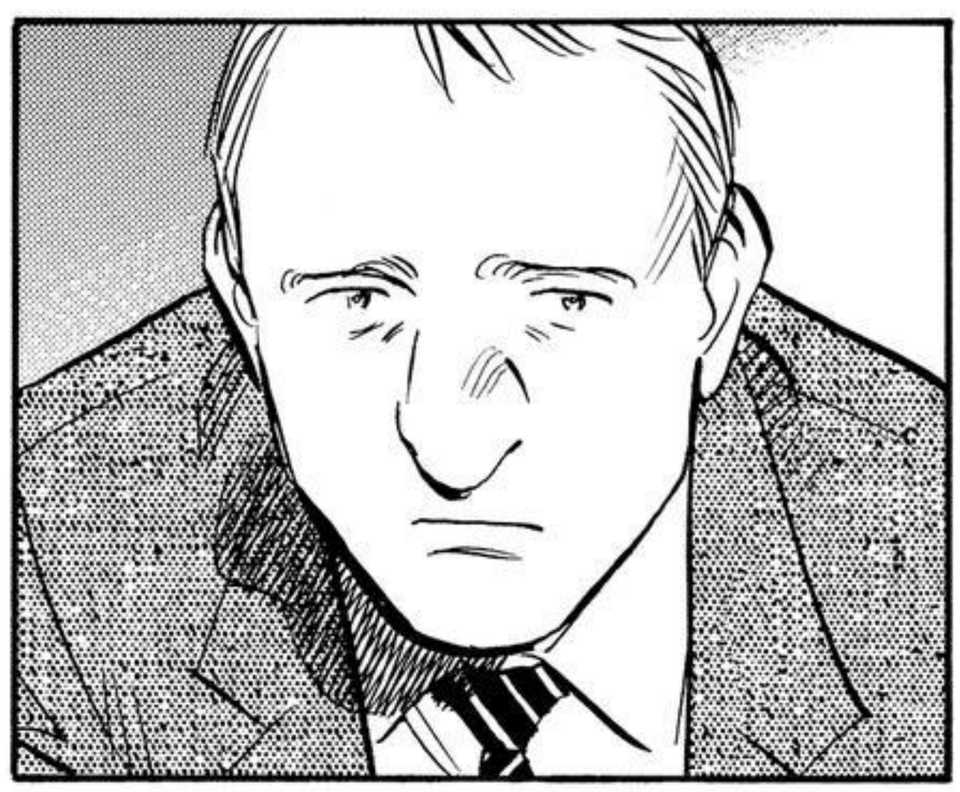

HOW 'BOUT YOU? ANY KIDS?

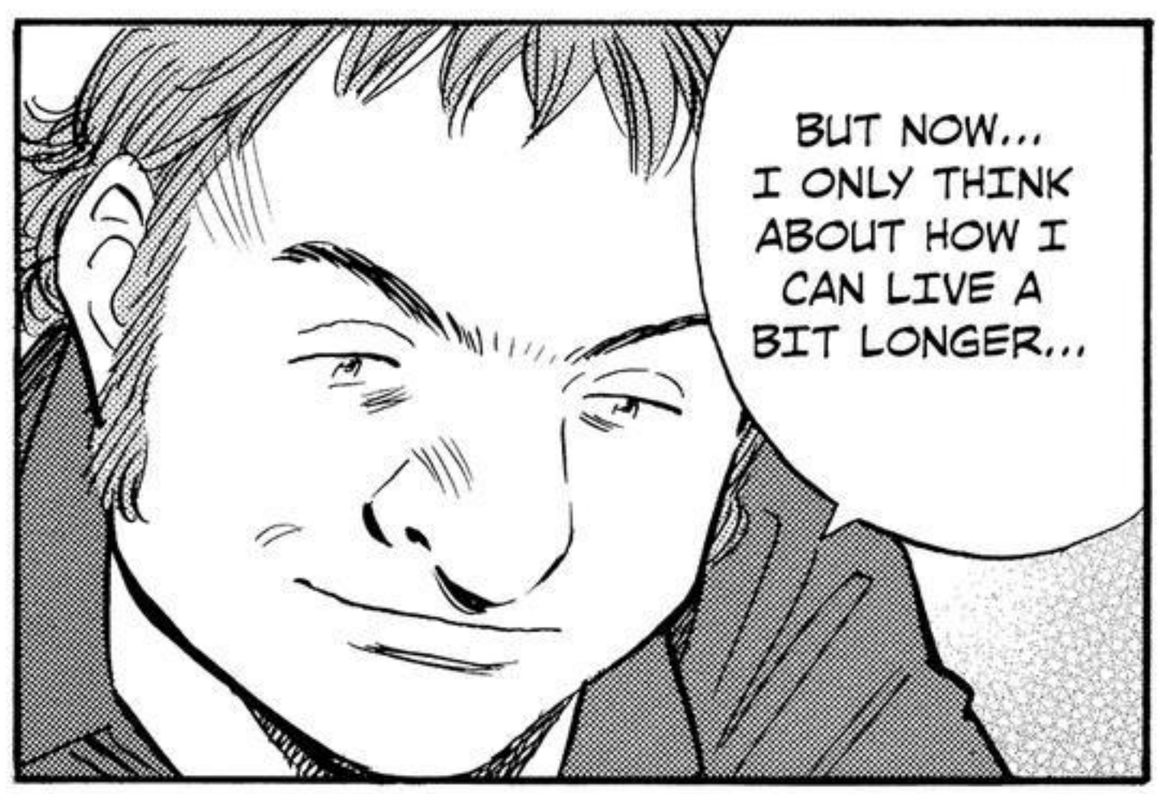

WE GOT ONE, AT FIRST... BUT THEN WE FIGURED THE MORE THE MERRIER, SO WE KEPT ADDING... NOW WE HAVE FIVE...
ANYWAYS, I DECIDED TO TAKE A HINT FROM THE HUMANS AND GOT SOME CHILDREN...

I NEVER USED TO GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO GETTING TORN APART IN A FIGHT...

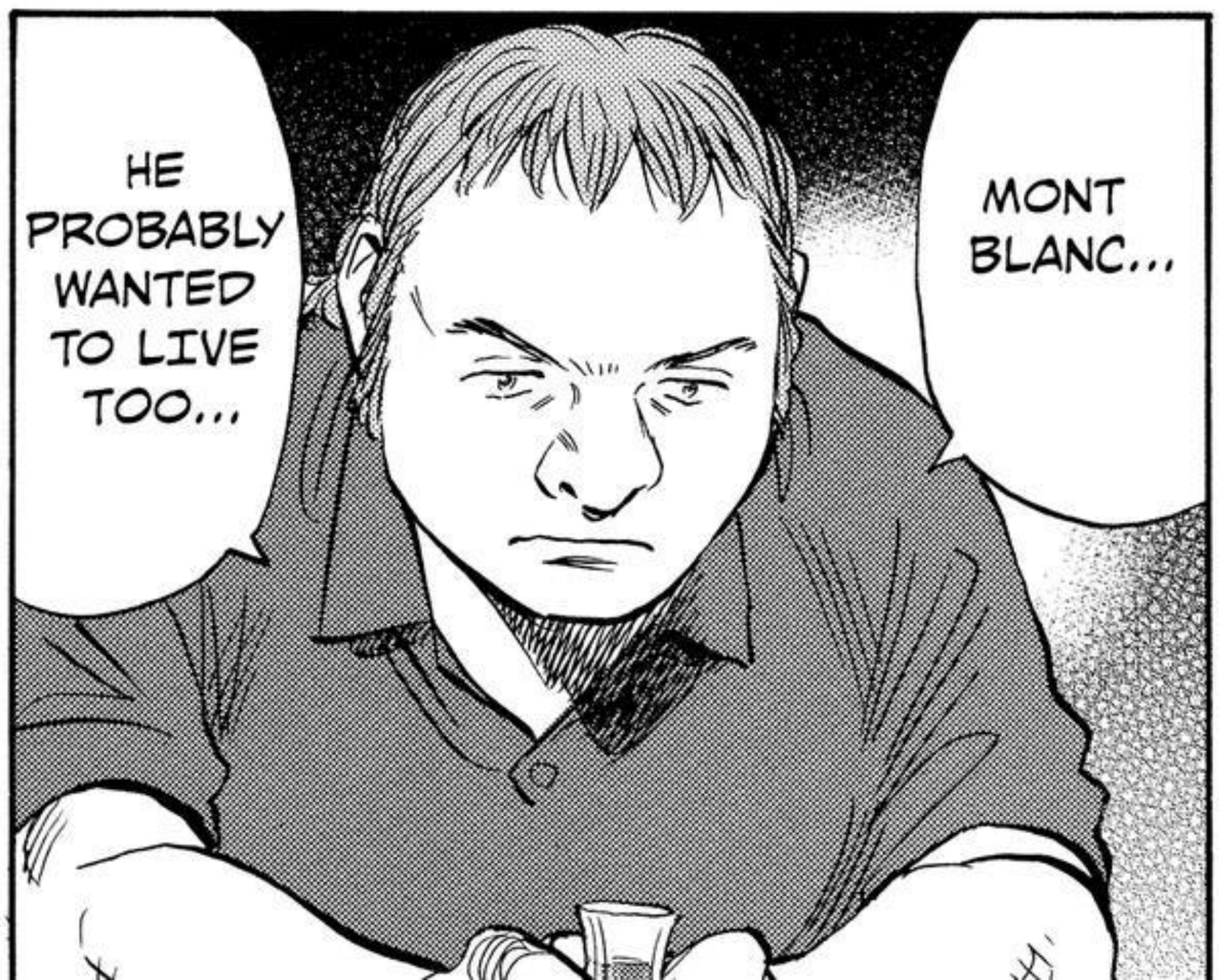
I SEE...
WELL, HAVIN' KIDS IS A FUNNY THING...

NO...




BUT NOW... I ONLY THINK ABOUT HOW I CAN LIVE A BIT LONGER...

...ONLY TO REALIZE I DON'T *WANT* TO DIE...
STRANGE, HUH? I GOT KIDS SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DYING...


HE PROBABLY WANTED TO LIVE TOO...
MONT BLANC...

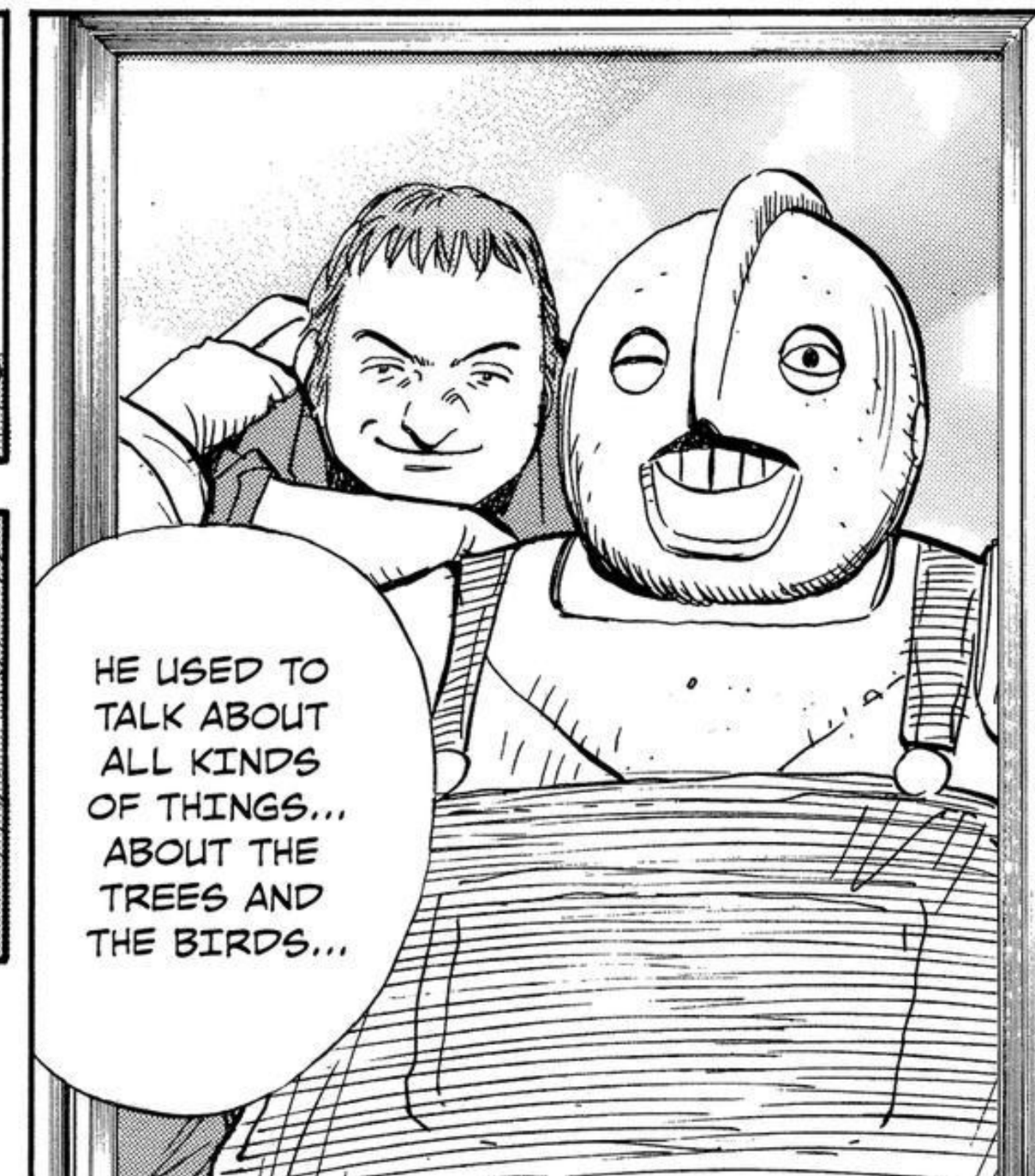
ALL THOSE PEOPLE GATHERED THERE IN THE SWISS ALPS WERE LIKE HIS OWN FAMILY...

I REMEMBER ALL THE FUN TIMES WE HAD...

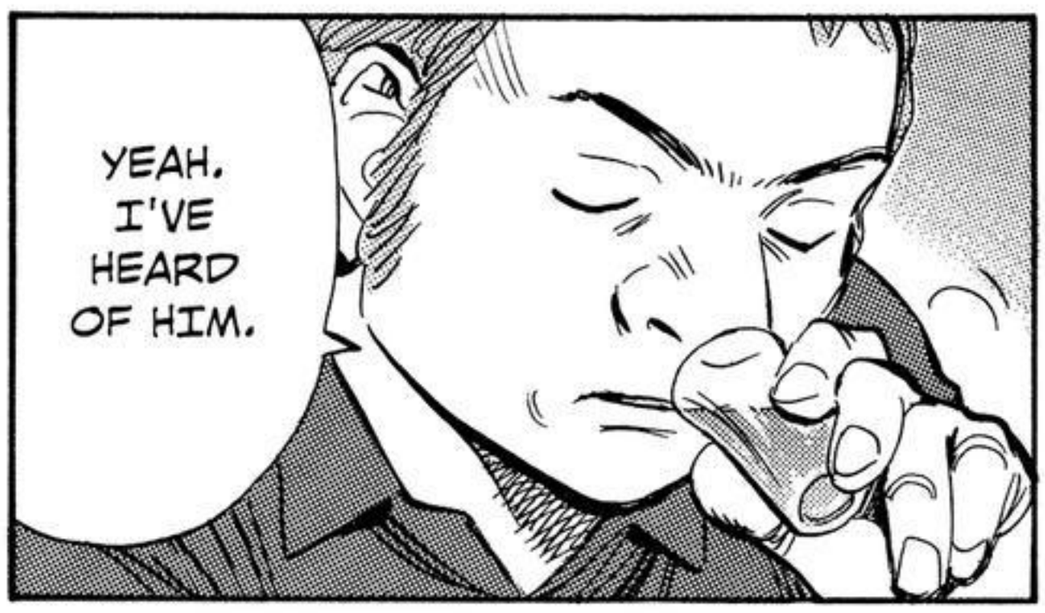
BUT MORE THAN THE FIGHTIN' WE DID TOGETHER...

I GOT TO KNOW MONT BLANC DURING THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR.

...



DO YOU KNOW NORTH NO. 2?


YEAH. I'VE HEARD OF HIM.

HE'S DEAD TOO...

NORTH WAS KILLED?

YES... AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

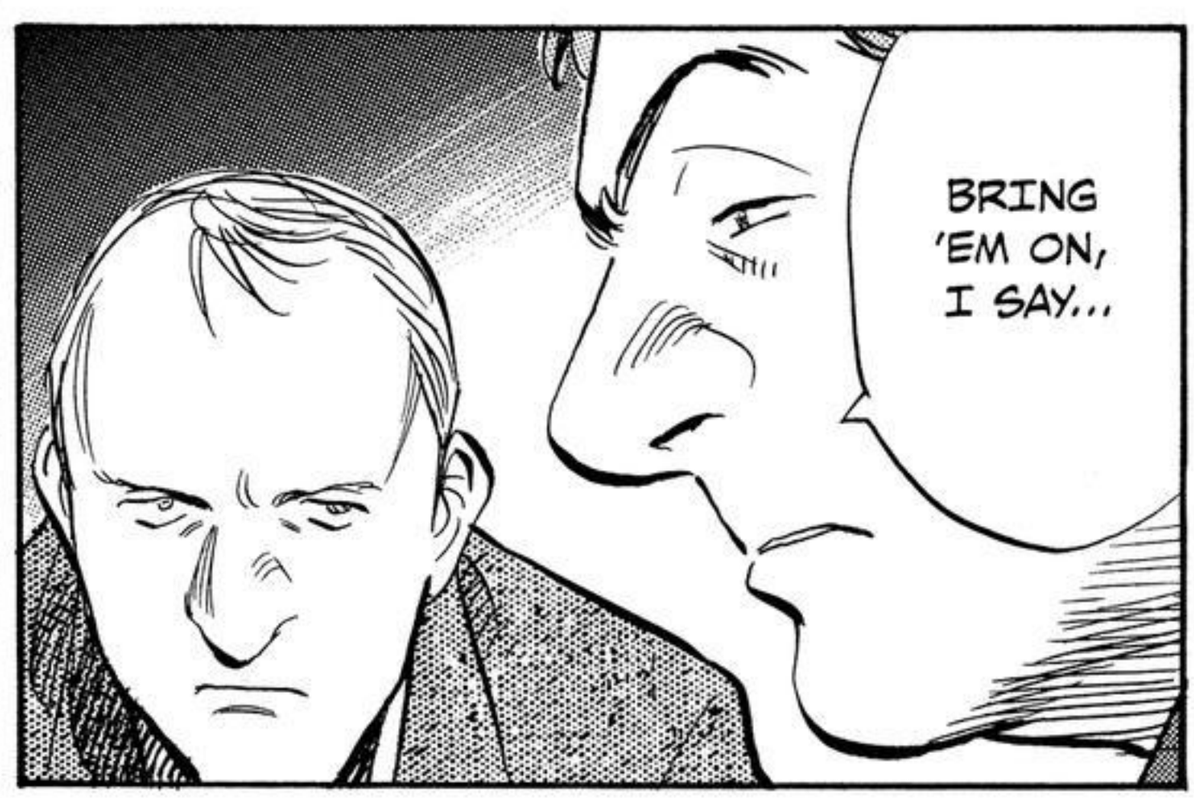
IT HAPPENED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY ...
HE WAS LIVING QUITE PEACEFULLY, WORKING AS A BUTLER FOR A MUSIC COMPOSER IN SCOTLAND...

YOU'RE IN DANGER TOO, BRANDO...

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN DANGER...

AFTER ALL, I'M THE ESKKKR CHAMPION. THE ROBO-FIGHT KING!
HMPH... DON'T WORRY. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

I'LL RIP HIM APART!


BRING 'EM ON, I SAY...

DON'T BE STUPID, BRANDO...
CONTACT ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, OKAY...?

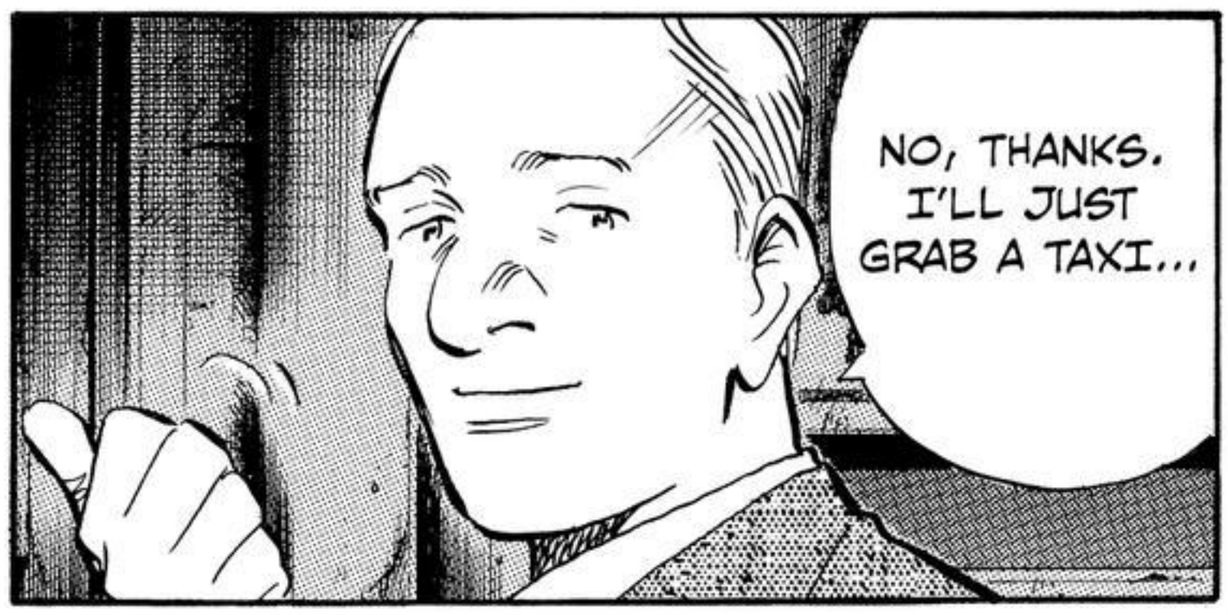
AFTER WHAT HE DID TO MONT BLANC, HE'S GOT IT COMIN'!

WOULD YOU LIKE A BIT MORE?
!!

AW, SHUCKS...
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, DEAR!

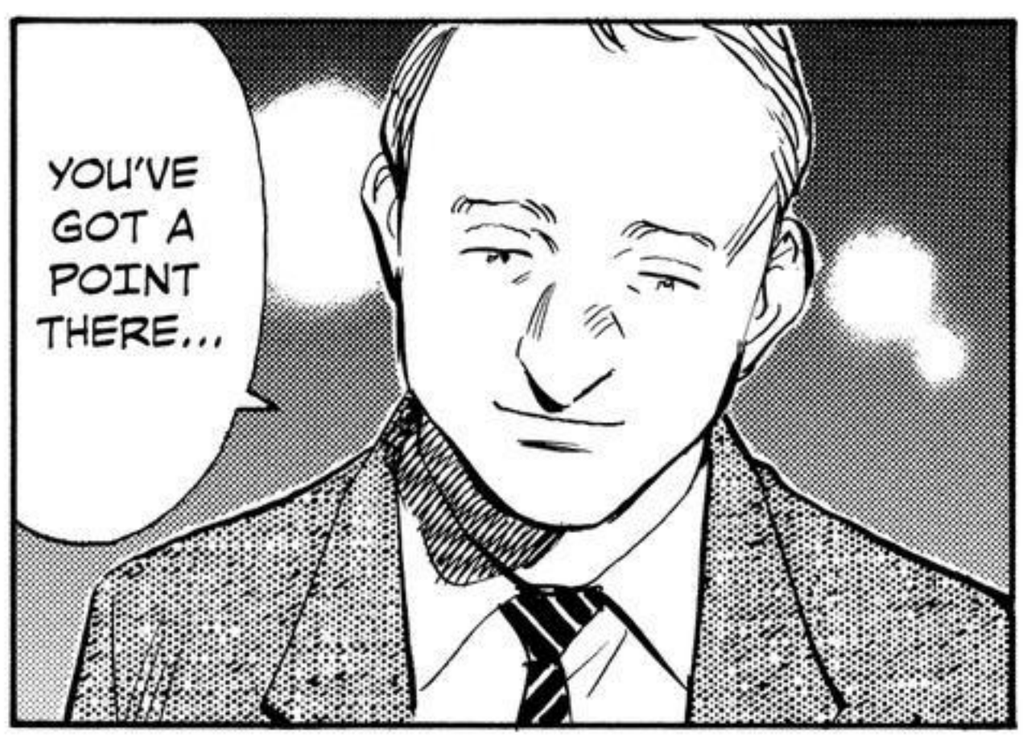
THIS TURKISH-STYLE ENERGY DRINK IS PRETTY POWERFUL STUFF ...
I'LL PASS ...

I'LL GO ANOTHER ROUND!


NO, THANKS. I'LL JUST GRAB A TAXI...

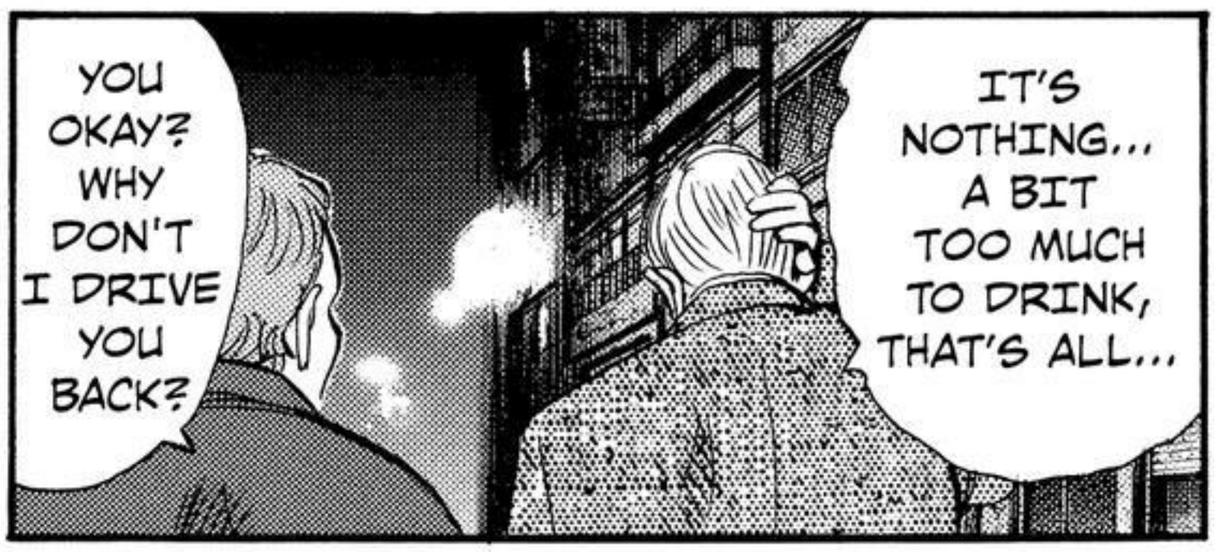
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DRIVE YOU BACK?

THANK YOU. I HAD A GREAT TIME TONIGHT...
COME AGAIN, ANYTIME!

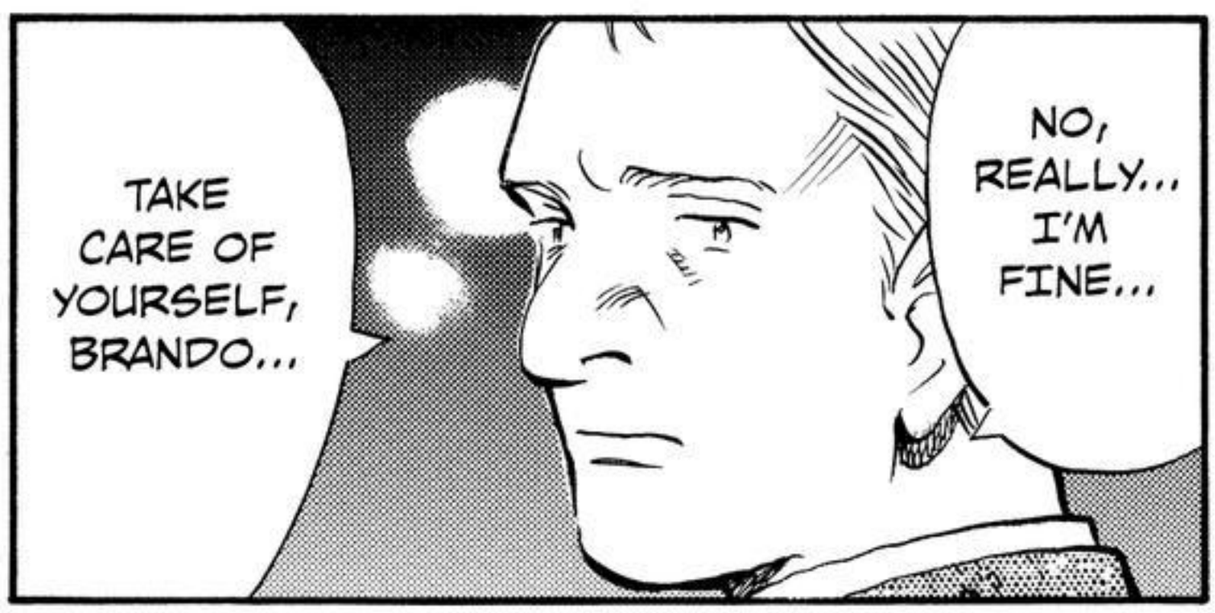

YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE...

BUT FIVE MIGHT BE A BIT TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE...
YEAH, KIDS ARE GREAT!

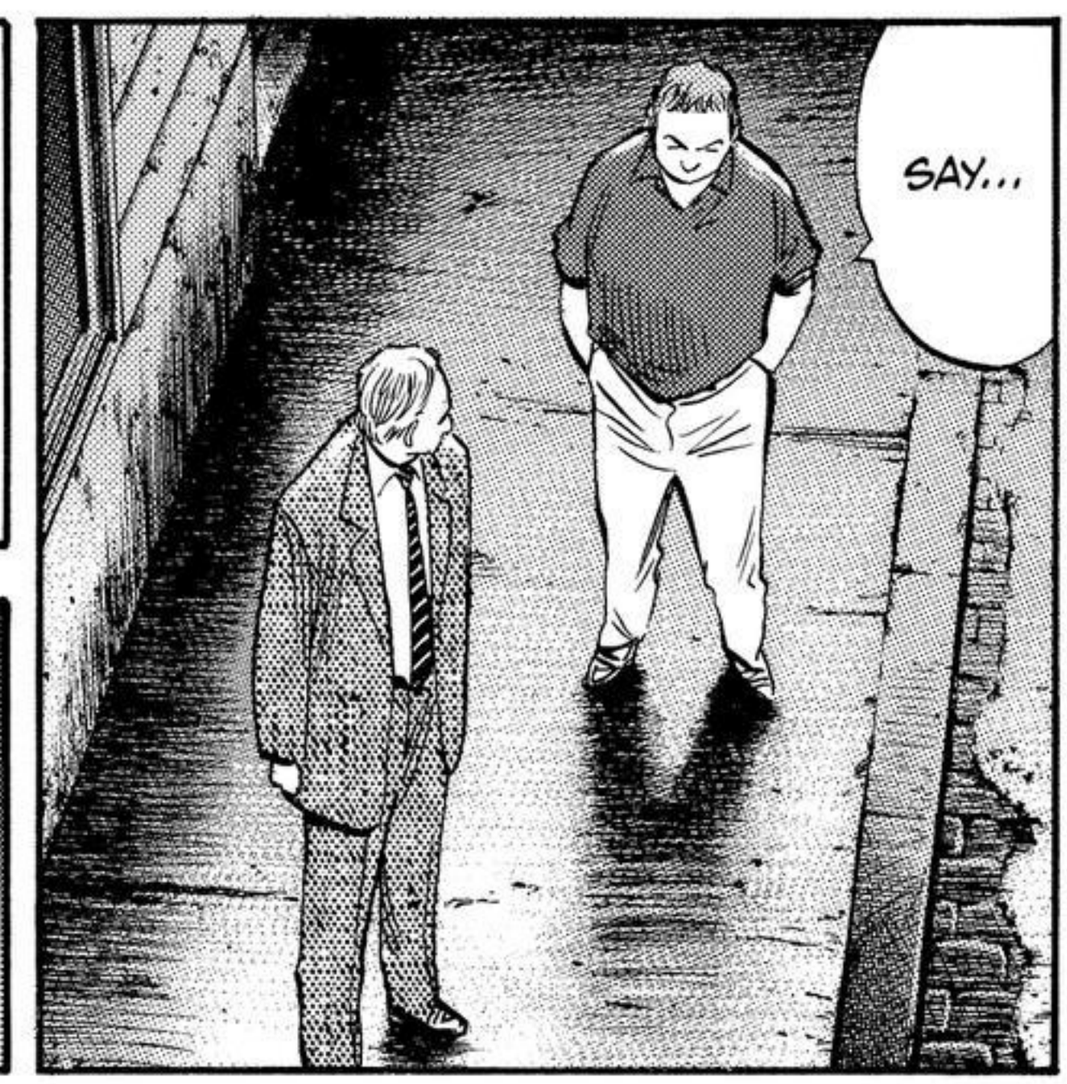
500 ZEUS A BODY.
!!


YOU OKAY? WHY DON'T I DRIVE YOU BACK?
IT'S NOTHING... A BIT TOO MUCH TO DRINK, THAT'S ALL...

SOME-THING THE MATTER?
...!

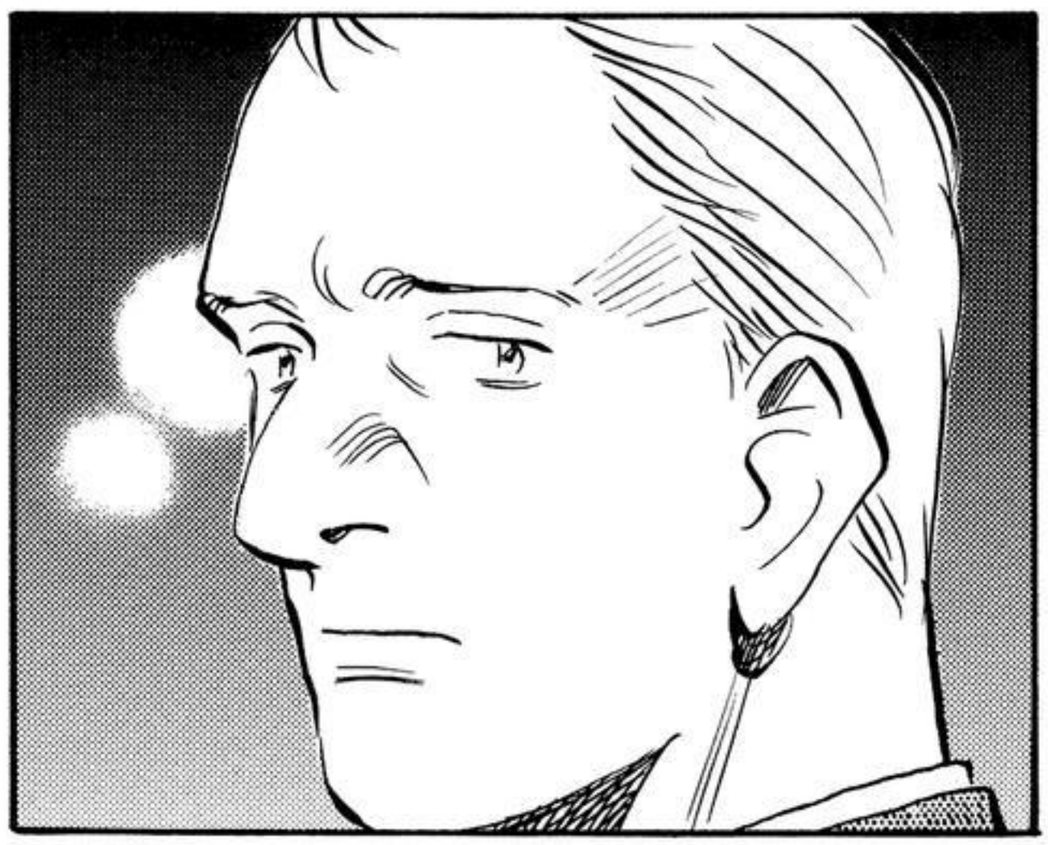

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BRANDO...
NO, REALLY... I'M FINE...

I TOLD YA THAT LUCK HAS A LOT TO DO WITH WINNING, RIGHT?


SAY...

BUT I DETERMINE MY OWN FATE! GOTTA GRAB YOUR OWN LUCK.

HUMANS OFTEN LEAVE THINGS TO FATE...

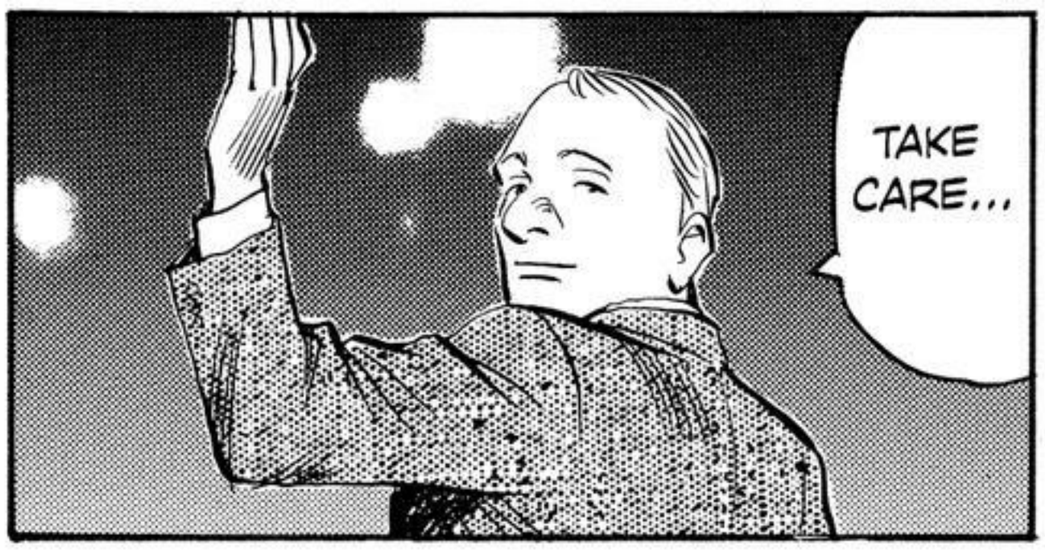


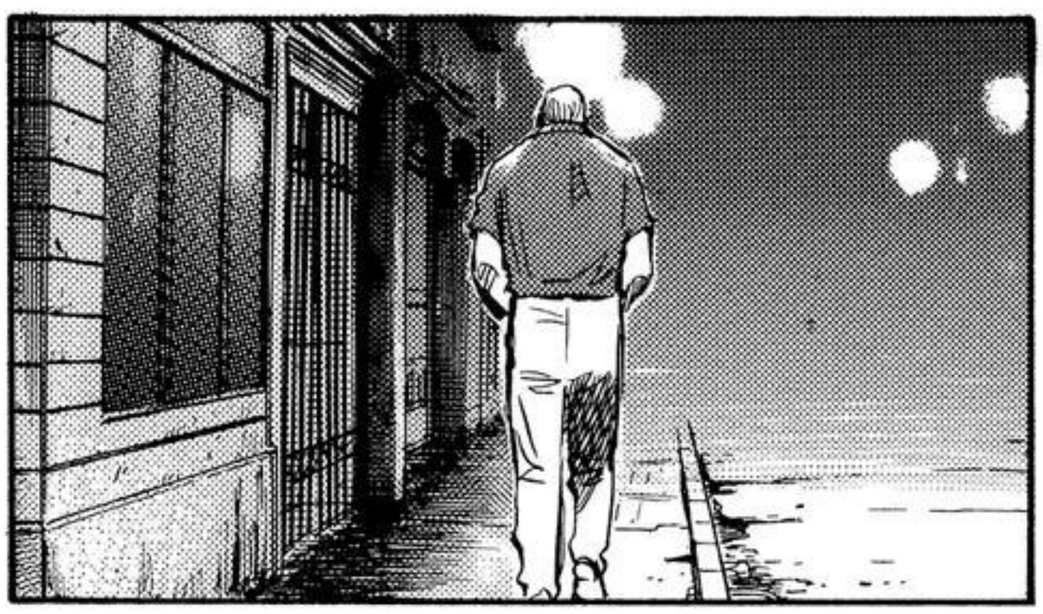
NOW THAT I HAVE A FAMILY, I'LL MAKE SURE TO HAVE LUCK ON MY SIDE.

BUT LISTEN UP, YOU CALL *ME*, IF *YOU'RE* EVER IN NEED, OKAY?

DON'T FORGET, I'M A LUCKY MAN!

THANKS, BRANDO. I'LL REMEMBER THAT...

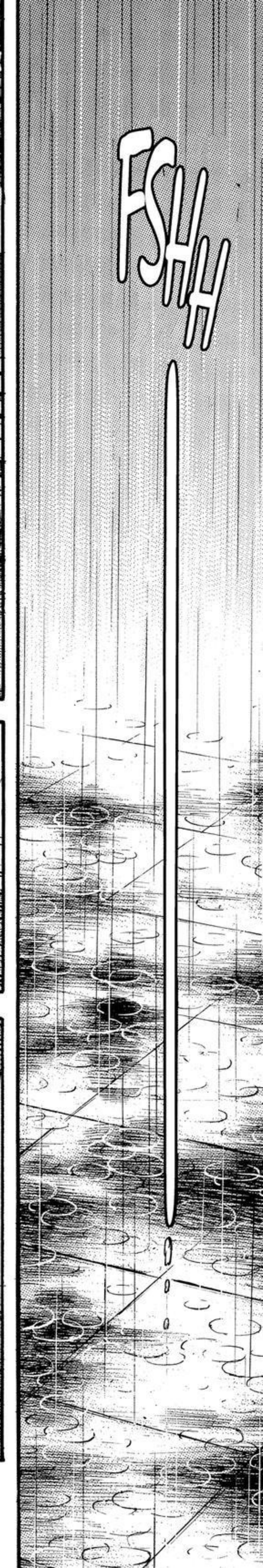




SPLASH!

UH-OH ...
SORRY, MISTER...

BNK


FSHH

NO, PASS IT TO ME!

YAY! GET IT!

HERE YOU GO...

CHILDREN ARE GREAT...

HA HA HA!

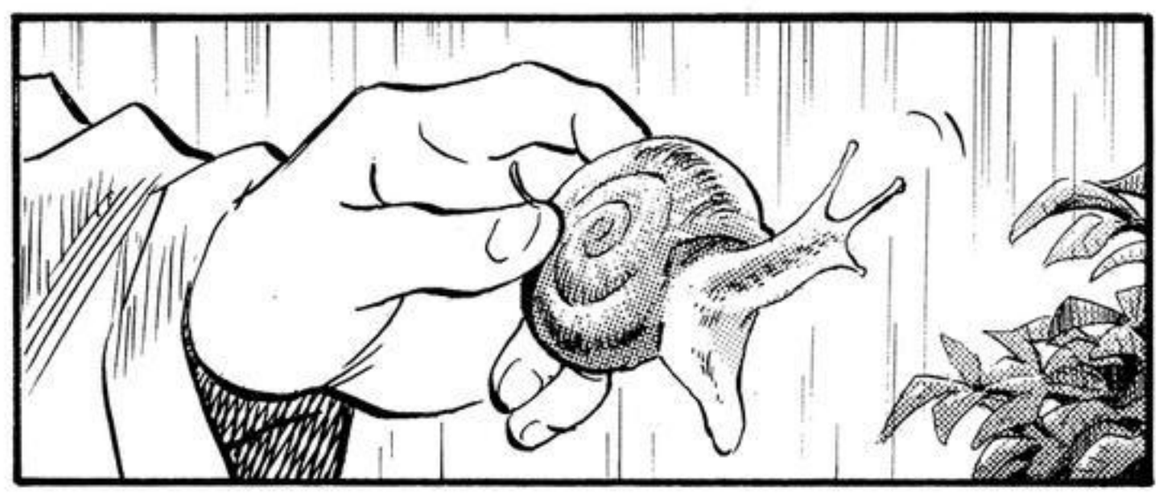
CHIK CHAK

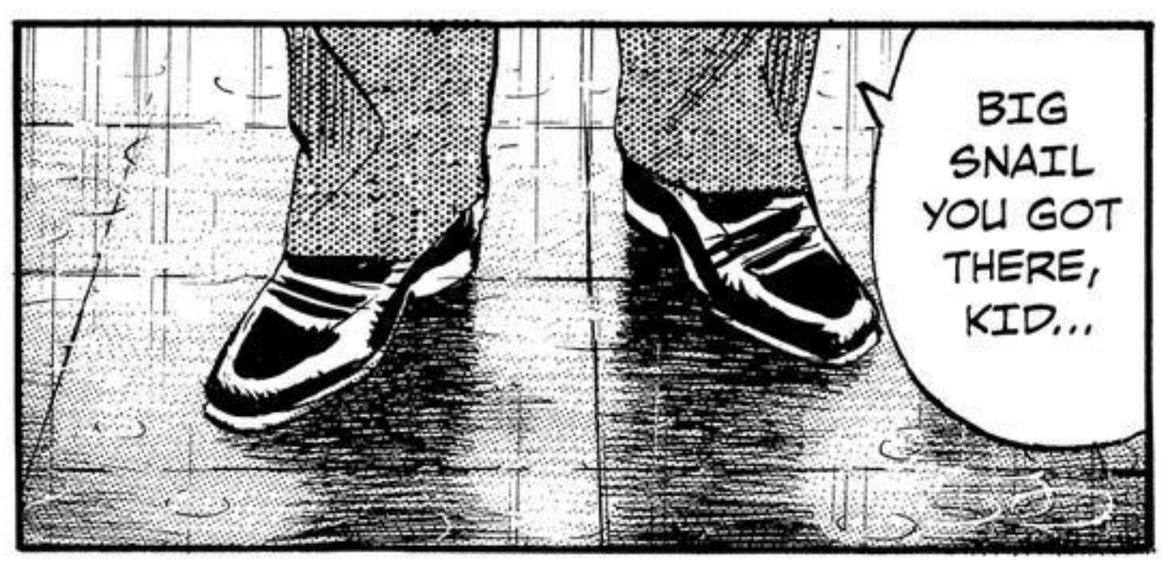
CHIK CHIK

WHERE'D IT GO...?

OH...

PLUNK




BIG SNAIL YOU GOT THERE, KID...

HEY...

YOU'RE ATOM, AREN'T YOU?

YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT...
TOKYO CITY, JAPAN

PLUTO: URASAWA × TEZUKA
VOLUME 7
VIZ SIGNATURE EDITION

BY Naoki Urasawa × Osamu Tezuka
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SUPERVISED BY Macoto Tezka
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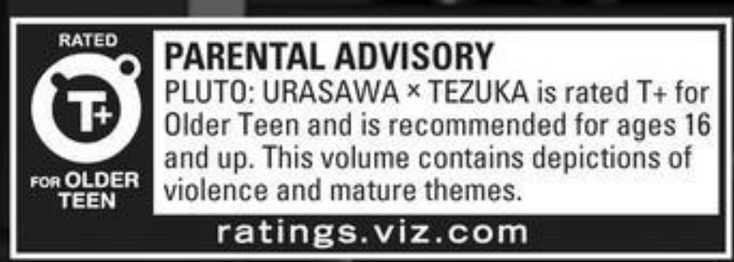
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